



The New York jury in the first civilian trial of former Guantanamo Bay prisoner Tanzania's Ahmed Khalfan Ghailani, seen here in this 2004 FBI handout, began a three-day weekend Friday after failing to reach a verdict in their first two sessions of deliberations.

Note signals deadlocked jury in NY terror case

By TOM HAYS,
Associated Press

NEW YORK – Deliberations at the first civilian trial of a Guantanamo detainee hit a snag on Monday when a juror told the judge she felt threatened by other jurors and asked him to be removed from the panel.

The note raised the specter of a hung jury because the juror said she was at odds with the rest of the anonymous panel as they try to settle on a verdict on terror charges against Ahmed Ghailani in federal court in Manhattan. "My conclusion is not going to change," she wrote without indicating her position. "I feel (I am being) attacked for my conclusion."

U.S. District Judge Lewis Kaplan responded by calling all the jurors into the courtroom, reminding them of his instructions on the law and telling them to continue deliberations, now in their third day. He later shot down a defense motion arguing that the apparent discord in the jury room was grounds for a mistrial. □



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Firefighters spray water on an apartment building on fire in the downtown area of Shanghai, east China, on Monday Nov. 15, 2010. The state news agency says the fire in the high-rise apartment building in China's business center of Shanghai has killed at least eight people and injured more than 90.

Associated Press
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Hearing for Fort Hood shooting suspect ends



FILE --This April 9, 2010, file photo released by the Bell County Sheriffs Department shows U.S. Major Nidal Hasan at the San Antonio to Bell County Jail in Belton, Texas. A hearing to determine whether Nidal should stand trial in the worst mass shooting on a U.S. military base was to resume Monday Nov. 15, 2010.

(AP Photo/Bell County Sheriffs Department, File)

By **ANGELA K. BROWN**
MICHAEL GRACZYK,
Associated Press

FORT HOOD, Texas — A hearing to determine if Maj. Nidal Hasan should stand trial for last year's Fort Hood shooting rampage ended Monday after three minutes when defense attorneys presented no evidence and the

Army psychiatrist declined to make a statement.

After a three-week break, Hasan was back in court at Fort Hood to resume his Article 32 hearing. His lawyers chose to call no witnesses at the military court proceeding, later saying they had not received key government reports about the case.

Col. James Pohl, the investigating officer in the case, will make the initial recommendation on whether Hasan should go to trial on 13 counts of premeditated murder and 32 counts of attempted premeditated murder for last November's attack at the Texas Army post. That decision ultimately will be made by a commanding general.

Military officials have not said if they would seek the death penalty if the case goes to trial. During Monday's brief court appearance, Pohl asked Hasan if he remembered that Pohl at a previous hearing said that he had the right to make a statement.

"Yes," Hasan replied softly.

Asked if he wished to make a statement, Hasan responded: "No."

Hasan was paralyzed from the chest down after being shot by police the day of the attack and has been attending the hearing in a wheelchair. He remains jailed, as the military justice

system does not have bail.

More than two dozen soldiers wounded in last year's shooting rampage were among those who testified in October, describing in chilling detail the attack that killed 12 soldiers and one civilian. Then the hearing was delayed, in part because the defense didn't want it going on during the anniversary of the Nov. 5, 2009, rampage.

Lt. Col. Kris Poppe, speaking for Hasan's defense team, told Pohl Monday they would not present evidence. Military law experts say that is not an unusual step for defense attorneys at Article 32 hearings, which are held to determine whether charges should move forward in military court.

John Galligan, Hasan's lead attorney, told reporters later that he chose not to call witnesses or present other evidence because the government has not provided several reports he has requested. Those include a

Pentagon review that revealed failures by several Walter Reed Army Medical Center officers who reviewed Hasan's performance as a student, internist and psychiatric resident.

During the hearing, prosecutors did not mention any government investigations done after the shooting. The prosecution's evidence centered on witness accounts the day of the rampage.

But Galligan said the "context and events and issues leading up to 5 November, I think for many many people, is a relevant aspect or issue."

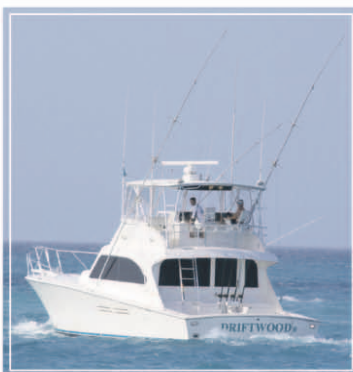
Galligan said he believed a trial is "where we may end up" but could not guess when that might happen.

Dozens of witnesses have testified that a gunman wearing an Army combat uniform shouted "Allahu Akbar!" — Arabic for "God is great!" — and opened fire in a crowded medical building where deploying soldiers get vaccines and other tests. He

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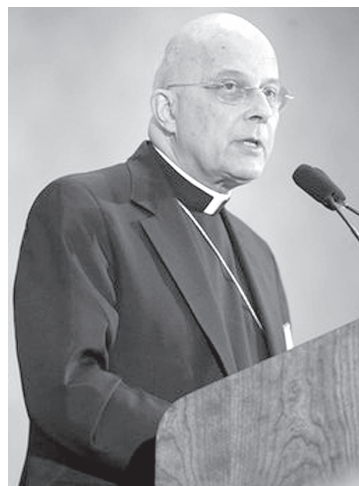
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Cardinal: bishops were right on health care



Cardinal Francis George, outgoing president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, addresses the conference for the last time during its annual fall meeting Monday, Nov. 15, 2010 in Baltimore. The conference will elect a new president Nov. 16.

(AP Photo/Steve Ruark)

By RACHEL ZOLL,
AP Religion Writer

BALTIMORE — The head of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops on Monday defended church leaders' strict opposition to President Barack Obama's health care plan, arguing the overhaul will allow backdoor taxpayer subsidy for abortion.

The law walled off federal funds from being used for abortion, and an executive order signed by Obama just before it passed reaffirmed existing prohibitions on government-financed abortion. Still, the bishops and other anti-abortion activists contend that neither would actually prevent tax money from being used.

"Our analysis of what the law itself says was correct and our moral judgments are secure," said Chicago Cardinal Francis George, president of the bishops' conference. "Throughout this public debate, the bishops kept the moral and intellectual integrity of the faith intact."

George made the remarks in his final address as president of the group, which is holding its annual fall assembly this week in Baltimore. The conference runs through Thursday, but the bishops will move the gathering behind closed doors starting Tuesday afternoon.

The bishops had lobbied hard against Obama's health care overhaul.

The final law allows federal subsidies for health insurance premiums to pay for abortion only in cases of rape or incest, or to save the life of the mother, a long-standing federal policy known as the Hyde amendment. Jenny Backus, a spokeswoman for the Department of Health

and Human Services, said Monday that the new law did not remove the restrictions "and the president made clear that this restriction applied to all aspects of the new law in his executive order."

Health insurance plans operating in new markets regulated by the government can choose to cover abortion. But they must do so with premiums collected separately from beneficiaries, and kept apart from taxpayer dollars. The language was a compromise, since most private insurance plans currently cover abortion. But abortion opponents argue the separation of funds is a distinction without a difference.

George said critics who insisted the plan was too complicated for the bishops to understand were only trying to silence the church. He said he realizes that the bishops do not speak on behalf of all of those who consider themselves Catholic. However, he said the prelates do have the

authority to speak out on moral issues related to civil laws.

Sister Carol Keehan, head of the Catholic Health Association, broke with abortion opponents and the bishops by advocating for the bill. Keehan said the association had "major concern" about abortion and said the plan was not perfect, but supported it because it was a major first step in providing health care for all. Several other women's religious orders also backed the bill.

A spokesman for the Catholic Health Association would not immediately comment on the cardinal's speech.

In his speech, George said bishops should be deeply concerned about the "wound to the church's unity" from the debate.

"I hope, trusting in the good will of all concerned, that means can be found to restore the seamless garment of ecclesial communion," he said. □

FBI: Man long declared dead arrested in kidnapping

By HOLBROOK MOHR,
Associated Press

JACKSON, Miss. — On paper he was deceased, legally declared dead 16 years ago. In reality, Thomas Steven Sanders had lived openly for years without anyone noticing that fact — until his weekend arrest on suspicion of kidnapping a Las Vegas girl who recently turned up dead.

Sanders was arrested Sunday at a Gulfport, Miss. truck stop after a massive nationwide manhunt and charged with kidnapping 12-year-old Lexis Roberts, whose body was found last month in Louisiana, the FBI said. The girl's mother, 31-year-old Suellen Roberts is missing and feared dead in a bizarre case that leaves many wondering how a legally dead man can go unnoticed for so long — even after being arrested in several states under his real name. Authorities say the answer is pretty simple, really. There's no national death database in the United States, said James Kelly, sheriff of Catahoula Parish in central Louisiana where the girl's skeleton was found by hunters in October.

And at age 53, Sanders wasn't collecting Social Security, raising no red flags there. It's not even clear if Sanders knew he was considered dead.

"Right now we have a lot more questions than we do answers," Kelly said.

Authorities on Monday pressed Sanders for more information about the girl's missing mother and he was cooperating with law enforcement agents, Kelly said.

Much of Sanders' past is a mystery ever since he walked out on his family in McComb, Miss., in 1987. He drifted from state to state and didn't buy property or establish many bills in his name — things that create a paper trail for most people, authorities said.

His wife, Candice Sanders, divorced him in 1988 for allegedly "habitual, cruel and inhuman treatment."

Years later, Sanders' parents, brother and ex-wife petitioned a Mississippi court to have him declared dead. That was in July 1994, apparently so his children could receive death benefits, but it's not clear if they did. The Social Security Administration said privacy laws prohibit the agency from discussing death benefits. Kelly said he didn't think the family received such benefits. □

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Toyota safety in spotlight after fatal Utah crash

By **BROCK VERGAKIS**,
Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY – Police suspect problems with a Toyota Camry's accelerator or floor mat caused a Utah crash that killed two people and injured two others, raising new concerns about the safety of the vehicles.

Paul Vanalfen's 2008 Camry slammed into a rock wall in Wendover on Nov. 5, killing him and passenger Charlene Lloyd. Police said the 66-year-old man from Washington Terrace died at the scene, and the 38-year-old Lloyd died the following day.

Utah Highway Patrol Sgt. Nathan Croft told The Salt Lake Tribune that the Camry was subject to at least three recalls. The recall and repair for a sticking accelerator, had been completed, he said.

In the past year, Toyota Motor Corp. has recalled millions of vehicles because of floor

mats that can snag gas pedals or accelerators that can sometimes stick. Hundreds of lawsuits were filed against Toyota after the automaker began issuing the worldwide recalls.

The crash occurred on Nov. 5 as Vanalfen, his wife, son and the son's fiancée traveled through an isolated area of western Utah.

Tire skid marks at the crash site showed Vanalfen tried to stop the Camry as it exited Interstate 80, Croft said. The car went through a stop sign at the bottom of the ramp and through an intersection before hitting the wall, according to the police report.

The Camry's brakes appeared to be in working order, Croft said.

Vanalfen's wife, Shirlene, 61, and son, Cameron, 34, were treated and released for injuries at Salt Lake's University Hospital, said

spokeswoman Cathy Wilets. Lloyd, from West Haven, and Cameron Vanalfen, from Clinton, were not wearing seatbelts, according to a police report.

Croft said authorities are investigating whether the recalls and repairs for a short accelerator pad and a sticky floor mat were also completed.

Croft said investigators' suspect that one of those problems caused the crash.

"We can't say definitely, but there is a strong likelihood that that in fact did cause the crash," Croft told the newspaper.

Toyota told The Associated Press that it was "supporting the Utah Highway Patrol with their investigation."

"Toyota sympathizes with the friends and family of Paul Vanalfen," Toyota Motor Corp. spokesman Paul Nolasco in Tokyo said Monday.

Nolasco said he did not have details on whether the Camry



In this Nov. 5, 2010 photo released by the Utah Highway Patrol, a Toyota Camry is shown after it crashed as it exited Interstate 80 in Wendover, Utah. Police suspect problems with the Camry's accelerator or floor mat caused the crash that left two people dead and two others injured.

(AP Photo/Utah Highway Patrol)

underwent any fixes under its recall. He said it was premature to draw any conclusions with the investigation ongoing. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration said it has received about 3,000 reports of sudden acceleration from Toyota drivers in the past decade, including 93

deaths. The government, however, has confirmed only four deaths from one crash.

A Transportation Department spokeswoman said the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration was reviewing the facts surrounding the Utah crash but declined further comment. □



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Scanners and pat-downs upset airline passengers

By JOAN LOWY
ADAM GOLDMAN,
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Nearly a week before the Thanksgiving travel crush, federal air security officials were struggling to reassure rising numbers of fliers and airline workers outraged by new anti-terrorism screening procedures they consider invasive and harmful.

Across the country, passengers simmered over being forced to choose scans by full-body image detectors or probing pat-downs. Top federal security officials said Monday that the procedures were safe and necessary sacrifices to ward off terror attacks.

"It's all about security," Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano said. "It's all about everybody recognizing their role."

Despite officials' insistence that they had taken care to prepare the American flying public, the flurry of criticism from private citizens to airline pilots' groups suggested that Napolitano and other federal officials had been caught off guard.

At the San Diego airport, a software engineer posted an Internet blog item saying he had been ejected after being threatened with a fine and lawsuit for refusing a groin check after turning down a full-body scan. The passenger, John Tyner, said he told a federal Transportation Security Administration worker, "If you touch my junk, I'm gonna have you arrested."

Tyner's individual protest quickly became a web sensation, but questions also

came from travel business groups, civil liberties activists and pilots, raising concerns both about the procedures themselves and about the possibility of delays caused by passengers reluctant to accept the new procedures.

"Almost to a person, travel managers are concerned that TSA is going too far and without proper procedures and sufficient oversight," said Kevin Mitchell, chairman of the Business Travel Coalition, an advocacy group representing corporate travel departments. "Travel managers are hearing from their travelers about this virtually on a daily basis."

Jeffrey Price, an aviation professor at Metropolitan State College of Denver, said two trends are converging: the regular holiday security increases and the addition of body scanners and new heightened measures stemming from the recent attempted cargo bombings. Also, several airports are short-staffed, which will add to delays, Price said.

Homeland Security and the TSA have moved forcefully to shift airport screening from familiar scanners to full-body detection machines. The new machines show the body's contours on a computer stationed in a private room removed from the security checkpoints. A person's face is never shown and the person's identity is supposedly not known to the screener reviewing the computer images.

Concerns about privacy and low-level radiation emitted by the machines have led some

passengers to refuse screening. Under TSA rules, those who decline must submit to rigorous pat-down inspections that include checks of the inside of travelers' thighs and buttocks. The American Civil Liberties Union has denounced the machines as a "virtual strip search."

Concerns about both procedures are not limited to the U.S. In Germany over the weekend, organized protesters stripped off their clothes in airports to voice their opposition to full-body scans. Douglas R. Laird, a former security director for Northwest Airlines, said it's the resistance to these measures that will cause the most delays.

The new enhanced pat-downs, an alternative to body scanners, take more time — about 2 minutes compared with a 30-second scan. Delays could multiply if many travelers opt for a pat-down or contest certain new procedures.

Beyond the scanning process, passengers will also be subject to greater scrutiny of their luggage and personal identification and stricter enforcement of long-standing rules like the ban on carry-on liquids over 3 ounces.

On Monday, top security officials were out in force to defend the new policies. Napolitano wrote an op-ed piece in USA Today insisting that the body scanners used at many airports were safe and any images were viewed by federal airport workers in private settings.

Napolitano later said in a news conference at Ronald Reagan National Airport that



Airline passengers put their personal belongings in trays as they check-in at Washington's Ronald Reagan National Airport, Monday, Nov. 15, 2010. U.S. officials are defending new anti-terrorism security procedures at the nation's airports that some travelers complain are overly invasive and intimate.

(AP Photo/Manuel Balce Ceneta)

she regretted the growing opposition to moves by the federal government to make flying safer. But she said the changes were necessary to deal with emerging terrorist threats such as a Nigerian man's alleged attempt to blow up a jetliner bound from Amsterdam to Detroit last Christmas Day using hard-to-detect explosives. Authorities allege that the explosives were hidden in the suspect's underwear.

There are some 300 full-body scanners now operational in 60 U.S. airports. TSA is on track to deploy approximately 500 units by the end of 2010.

Officials for the Airports Council International-North America, which represents U.S. and Canadian airports, said their members haven't complained about the scanner and pat-down policy or reported any special problems. But airports have been urging the government to engage in an aggressive public education campaign regarding the new screening, said Debby McElroy, the council's executive vice president.

"TSA is trying to address a real, credible threat, both through the advanced imaging technology and through the pat-downs," McElroy said.

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US: Gangs buy jets for trans-Atlantic coke flights

By CHRIS HAWLEY,

Associated Press

NEW YORK — U.S. prosecutors in a series of court cases say they are beginning to unravel the latest innovation in drug smuggling: South American gangs that are buying old jets and other planes, filling them with cocaine and flying them more than 3,000 miles across the ocean to Africa.

At least three gangs have struck deals to fly drugs to West Africa and from there to Europe, according to U.S. indictments.

“The sky’s the limit,” one Sierra Leone trafficker boasted to a Drug Enforcement Administration informant, according to court documents.

Most of the cocaine flown to Africa is bound for Europe, where demand has been rising over the last decade. South American gangs are turning to airplanes because European navies have been intercepting more boat shipments along the African coast, trafficking experts say.

“We started stopping the maritime traffic, basically, so then they started going to air traffic more and more,” said Theodore Leggett, a smuggling expert with the U.N. Office on Drugs and Crime in Vienna. The U.N. agency began warning about trans-Atlantic drug planes after Nov. 2, 2009, when a burned-out Boeing 727 was found in the desert in Mali. Drug smugglers had flown the jet from Venezuela, unloaded it and then torched it, investigators said.

In the last year, arrests in Africa have begun shedding light on how the air routes work. The cases are being prosecuted in a New York federal court because some of the cocaine was supposed to have been sent to the United States.

“The quantity of cocaine distributed and the means employed to distribute it were extraordinary,” prosecutors wrote in one case. They warned of a conspiracy to “spread vast quantities of cocaine throughout the world by way of cargo airplanes.”

Recent U.S. court cases involving trans-Atlantic flights include:

- The Valencia-Arbalaez Organization, broken up by undercover U.S. agents after it bought a \$2 million plane to run monthly flights between Venezuela and Guinea. The group claimed to have six aircraft already flying.
- A ring based in Colombia and Liberia, arrested after one of its planes was seized in May with two tons of cocaine as it prepared to leave Venezuela. Prosecutors say the group was planning to fly shipments twice a month. One defendant claimed to manage five other aircraft making similar hauls.
- Three Sierra Leone men, accused of scouting out airstrips and arranging for a four-ton flight of cocaine from South America in March.

Two other recent cases have involved cocaine and cargo jets, though investigators have not revealed yet whether the flights were going to Africa:

- Francisco Gonzalez Uribe, a Colombian trafficker due to be sentenced this month. He was recorded while trying to purchase large aircraft including a DC-8.
- Walid Makled-Garcia, who prosecutors say controlled airstrips in Venezuela used to launch drug flights. Prosecutors say Makled-Garcia was behind one of the biggest drug plane shipments in recent years: a DC-9 that landed in Mexico in 2006 with more than 12,300 pounds of cocaine on board. Smugglers are able to fly large planes across the



This photo provided by the U.S. Attorney’s Office shows Russian pilot Konstantin Yaroshenko at the Republic of Liberia National Security Agency (RLNSA) headquarters on May 30, 2010, in Monrovia, Liberia. He was arrested on charges of conspiring to fly cocaine from South America to Africa. It is thought to be part of an emerging trend, as gangs buy or rent old jet aircraft, stuff them full of cocaine, and fly them across the Atlantic to feed Europe’s growing coke habit, U.S. prosecutors say.

(AP Photo/U.S. Attorney’s Office)

ocean undetected because most of the Atlantic is out of the range of radar, said Scott Decker, a criminology professor at Arizona State University who studies smuggling methods. Even commercial airliners crossing the ocean must periodically update air traffic controllers about their positions because they do not appear on radar screens.

“Going that way, especially from South America, really gets you outside the majority of the security envelope for air traffic,” said Decker.

Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez’s decision to sever ties with most U.S. law enforcement agencies in 2005 has made it easier to bring cocaine to staging sites on the Venezuelan coast, said Vanda Felbab-Brown, a fellow at The Brookings Institution, a Washington think tank.

“The DEA is not present there, the Venezuelan military is making money off it, and much of the territory is just not controlled by the government,” Felbab-Brown said.

The global economic slump also has idled hundreds of aircraft. Ads on websites such as Planemart.com offer DC-8s for as low as \$275,000.

The Valencia-Arbalaez gang was caught after it contacted an undercover DEA agent in the aviation business in 2007. The group wanted to buy a plane in Moldova and needed help setting up a front company in Cyprus to complete the deal.

The gang was already running flights across the Atlantic, members told DEA agents. One member, Manuel Silva-Jaramillo, said the group had six aircraft, each worth \$1.5 million to \$1.8 million, and was delivering cocaine both by air-dropping and unloading it on the ground.

“I sold airplanes to these people so I knew what was going on,” Silva-Jaramillo, an American aeronautical engineer, told a New York judge earlier

this year. “I knew that they were bringing the drugs to the United States.”

A plane seized in Sierra Leone in July 2008 with 600 kilograms (1,323 pounds) of cocaine belonged to the group, the DEA says. The gang’s leader, Jesus Eduardo Valencia-Arbalaez, said he was paying pilots \$200,000 to \$300,000 per trip.

Planning sessions for the newly acquired plane were held in Denmark, Spain, Romania and Virginia and at a Best Western hotel in Manhattan. At one meeting, Valencia-Arbalaez sketched a map of West Africa showing points where the drugs would be delivered. The plane could carry seven tons of cocaine, Valencia-Arbalaez said.

The gang used detailed spreadsheets to compute flight costs and distributed codebooks to conceal their plans.

Fuel and pilots were paid for through wire transfers, suitcases filled with cash and, in one case, a bag with \$356,000 in euros left at a hotel bar. The gang hired a Russian crew to move the newly purchased plane from Moldova to Romania, and then to Guinea.

Most of the cocaine was destined for Europe, but part of each shipment was supposed to go on to New York.

The European drug market was hugely profitable. Silva-Jaramillo claimed the gang had as much as \$82 million in euros stashed in Spain that it needed to launder, according to court documents.

The gang also discussed setting up a methamphetamine lab in Liberia and exporting the drug to Japan and the United States.

The gang had access to a private airfield in Guinea, was considering buying its own airport and had sent a team to explore whether it could send direct flights from Bolivia to West Africa, Valencia-Arbalaez said in recorded conversations.

Valencia-Arbalaez was arrested in Romania in June 2009. He pleaded guilty to cocaine trafficking in New York court and was sentenced in July to 17 1/2 years in prison. Another conspirator, Javier Caro, received 3 1/2 years. Silva-Jaramillo pleaded guilty and is awaiting sentencing.

Drug trafficking is especially dangerous to West Africa because of the corrupting effect it has on already weak governments, said Felbab-Brown, of The Brookings Institution.

In the Liberia case, traffickers offered bribes to Fumbah Sirleaf, the head of the Liberian security agency and son of the country’s president. Sirleaf was secretly coordinating with the DEA. He did not respond to requests for comment about the case.

The flights were to come from Venezuela and Panama. The ring had already sent aircraft into Liberia, Guinea and Guinea-Bissau, one of the traffickers was recorded saying.

The case has attracted attention in Russia because one of the defendants, Russian pilot Konstantin Yaroshenko, says he was tortured by Liberian police before being handed over to the DEA. He and the other five defendants have denied the charges against them. The Russian foreign ministry accused the United States of “kidnapping” Yaroshenko and failing to tell the Russian government. Prime Minister Vladimir Putin called his arrest an example of the United States overstepping its bounds.

The DEA denies Yaroshenko was abused. The U.S. Department of State said it mistakenly faxed Yaroshenko’s arrest notice to the wrong embassy. □



As Digicel's SHOCO Cares' award winner

Francis Groeneveldt recognized as a role model for community service

Fellow MVC colleague and last year's winner Lillian Martis remains dedicated



ORANJESTAD — A full roster of outstanding tourism professionals was unveiled with the announcement of this year's SHOCO Award of Excellence winner, but truly special among them is the winner of the Digicel's "SHOCO Cares" award, honoring an individual who selflessly gives of his or her time. This year's award winner was Francis Groeneveldt, who at 26 years, has established a flourishing career with the Sales & Marketing Department of Marriott Vacation Club (MVC) in Aruba, but still manages to devote himself to community work, specifically the Adopt-an-Addict outreach program, since 2008. The award was

presented jointly through AHATA as well as Digicel, which is the exclusive sponsor of the annual awards program. "If every person in this room contributed just one hour a month towards community work, think how much we can accomplish," stated Francis during an eloquent address given on the acceptance of his award. He went on to point out that no one should be dismissed as deserving of assistance, and he emphasized that Adopt-an-Addict for which he contributes his time is an essential factor to a healthy community. Francis Groeneveldt has demonstrated personal commitment to helping those in need from an early



age. He was involved in the "Famia di Dios" youth group and continued to pursue further avenues to assist the community. While working with MVC, he also became a board member with the Marriott Vacation Club Community Welfare Foundation, carrying out various projects in different neighborhoods along with his work colleagues. He is one among many dedicated tourism professionals working with MVC.

Last year, Digicel's SHOCO Cares award went to fellow Marriott associate, Lillian Martis.

But neither Francis nor Lillian has rested on their laurels since winning Digicel's SHOCO Cares award; their lifelong dedication to community service continues to this day. Francis is now working to create his own foundation centered on the

goal of providing assistance to young people.

Lillian continues to be a contributing force in the neighborhood and is the current president of the MVC Community Welfare Foundation. One recent effort she spearheaded was in the donation of 20-plus fruit trees for the Agnes Kleuterschool in Noord. She participated

in a symbolic tree planting that helped emphasize what can be accomplished through combined efforts, and how those efforts may grow exponentially. It is a lesson from which everyone can learn with both Lillian and Francis serving as exemplary role models and well-deserved recipients of Digicel's SHOCO Cares award. □



Milano Italian Bistro & Lounge presents its new menu



PALM BEACH – Milano Italian Bistro & Lounge invited members of the press and other local dignitaries for a tasting of its new menu items. Chef Gilbert Flemming reports the novel dishes feature more

pasta, and a bigger variety of fresh seafood. Guests at Milano Bistro & Lounge at South Beach Centre, may dine al fresco under a new awning, overlooking the action on the plaza, or indoor in the trendy dining room. The restaurant



also includes a chic bar and cozy lounge area.

Restaurant Manager Daniel Werleman explained that Milano Italian Bistro & Lounge tweaked its menu in preparation for the high season while PR executive Ruthlene Flemming explained that the dining room and terrace décor also received a seasonal refresh.

Milano Bistro & Lounge is the pet project of a well-known foodie, Hubert Dirks, who packs much experience and enjoys great access to the freshest produce under the sun.

Expect fresh Seafood, just caught Fish, USDA Beef, Pork, Lamb and Chicken specialties for dinner, light bites, fine wines and cocktails, with an air-conditioned dining room and outside terrace seating. South Beach Centre, Palm Beach, Aruba, with ample free parking, within walking distance of all high-rise hotels.

Pictured here guests enjoying the casual party introducing novel menu dishes. □



DONKEY SANCTUARY ARUBA VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



ORANJESTAD - The donkey sanctuary is looking for animal lovers who would like to volunteer their time. We need volunteers to work on Saturday morning from 10am to 1pm. We also are looking for volunteers to work on weekday afternoons from 12:30pm to 4pm. Volunteers feed, clean, educate, talk to guests and sell merchandise in our shop and small canteen. You get to meet wonderful, loving animals that appreciate all the help you give them. Please call 593-2933 to sign up. □



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After visiting the island for 29 year

Peggy Smith celebrate her birthday in Aruban Style



ORANJESTAD - Peggy Smith was preparing to celebrate her birthday this Sunday. Instead of celebrating it at home, she decided to make an Aruban celebration at her second home, Aruba. She enjoyed a wonderful evening with her good friend Isha and her family.

Peggy brought with her 22 members of her family and made the celebration at Isha's home in Pos Chiquito.

Peggy and her family visited Aruba for di the first time in 1981m staying at the Caribbean Palm Village. It was like love at first sight. Sunday night at Peggy's Aruban-sister's house in Pos Chiquito was a celebration Aruban style with a lot of music.

There was special performance of dancing for Peggy and her family. Congratulations and Pabien to Peggy and hope to see you back as always. □



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Mystery Bonus Jackpot:
FORD MUSTANG
casino:
CRYSTAL CASINO



MANUEL CANDELARIO DE LA CRUZ
January 30th, 2010
Mystery Bonus Jackpot:
CHEVY AVEO
casino:
SEAPORT CASINO



MARIO MADURO
February 18th, 2010
Mystery Bonus Jackpot:
FORD MUSTANG
casino:
CRYSTAL CASINO



TERESA BERROA HERNANDEZ
March 10th, 2010
Mystery Bonus Jackpot:
SUZUKI SWIFT
casino:
SEAPORT CASINO



PONIMIN AMATSARIP
April 3rd, 2010
Mystery Bonus Jackpot:
CHEVY AVEO
casino:
SEAPORT CASINO



Ignacio Ras
November 11th, 2010
Mystery Bonus Jackpot:
TOYOTA YARIS
casino:
SEAPORT CASINO



Eva Maria De Mey-Sneek
October 23rd, 2010
Mystery Bonus Jackpot:
KIA CERRATO
casino:
SEAPORT CASINO

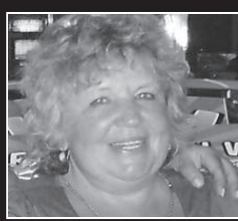


JUDITH MONCADA
April 3rd, 2010
Mystery Bonus Jackpot:
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casino:
CRYSTAL CASINO

LATEST CAR WINNER



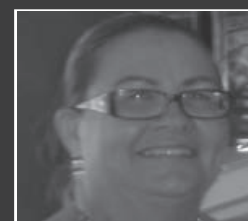
MICHELE ROTUNNO
April 16th, 2010
Mystery Bonus Jackpot:
FORD MUSTANG
casino:
CRYSTAL CASINO



Lioudmilla Agronik
September 27th, 2010
Mystery Bonus Jackpot:
FORD MUSTANG
casino:
CRYSTAL CASINO



Elli Hennep
September 8th, 2010
Mystery Bonus Jackpot:
KIA CERRATO
casino:
SEAPORT CASINO



FRANCISCA TROMP
May 11th, 2010
Mystery Bonus Jackpot:
NISSAN TIIDA
casino:
SEAPORT CASINO



MANUEL CANDELARIO DE LA CRUZ
June 6th, 2010
Mystery Bonus Jackpot:
KIA CERRATO
casino:
SEAPORT CASINO



FLORA RASMIJN BRIESEN
June 12th, 2010
Mystery Bonus Jackpot:
FORD MUSTANG
casino:
CRYSTAL CASINO



MICHAEL SUE
July 14th, 2010
Mystery Bonus Jackpot:
FORD MUSTANG
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Haitians protest UN base over cholera claim

JONATHAN M. KATZ

Associated Press

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) — Protesters who hold Nepalese U.N. peacekeepers responsible for a deadly outbreak of cholera that has killed 1,000 in three weeks threw stones and threatened to set fire to a base in the country's second-largest city Monday, Haitian radio and eyewitnesses reported. The protesters also blame the unit for the death of a Haitian youth at the base in August. The demonstrations began in Cap-Haitien about 6 a.m. (6 a.m. EST; 1100 GMT) and have paralyzed much of the northern port city, national television reporter Johnny Joseph told The Associated Press by phone. Demonstrators are also targeting other U.N. bases and Haitian national police stations in the city, he said. U.N. police spokesman Andre Leclerc said the demonstrators blocked traffic

in the area. Radio Kiskeya and Radio Caraibes reported that U.N. soldiers and Haitian police fired tear gas and projectiles to disperse at least 1,000 protesters at the Nepalese base. Joseph said at least three people were injured by Haitian police.

A case of cholera had never before been documented in Haiti, and fear and confusion is following its destructive path. President Rene Preval addressed the nation on Sunday to dispel myths and educate people on good sanitation and hygiene.

Cholera is transmitted by feces and can easily be prevented if people have access to safe drinking water and can regularly wash their hands.

But those conditions don't exist in much of Haiti, and tens of thousands of people have been sickened as the disease has spread across the countryside and to nearly all the country's major



The head of Nepal's mission in Haiti, Lt. Col. Krishna, center, and Prakash Neupane, deputy chief of the MINUSTAH engineering section, left, enter Nepal's U.N. base in Mirebalais, Haiti, Sunday Oct. 31, 2010.

Associated Press

population centers, including the capital, Port-au-Prince. Doctors Without Borders and other medical aid groups have expressed concern that

the outbreak could eventually sicken hundreds of thousands of people.

The suspicions surround a different Nepalese base located

on the Artibonite River system where the outbreak started. The soldiers arrived there in October following outbreaks in their home country and about a week before Haiti's epidemic began. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found that the strain now ravaging the country matched a strain specific to South Asia, but said they had not pinpointed the origin of the outbreak.

Following an Associated Press investigation, the U.N. acknowledged that there were sanitation problems at the base, but says its soldiers were not responsible for the outbreak. No formal or independent investigation has taken place despite calls from Haitian human-rights groups and U.S. health care experts. Presidential candidates have seized on the suspicions to denounce the 12,000-strong U.N. peacekeeping force ahead of Nov. 28 elections. □

Suriname president's trial moves to execution site

PARAMARIBO, Suriname (AP) — The long-delayed murder trial of the Surinamese president and other officials in the country's former military dictatorship moved Monday to the colonial fort in the capital where they are accused of executing 15 political opponents in 1982.

Judges walked through the capital's waterfront Fort Zeelandia with a witness who has testified that President Desi Bouterse, at the time a soldier and the de facto leader of the dictatorship, was present when the activists were lined up and shot after being detained for hours in an open-air cell once used to hold slaves. Journalists and members of the public were not allowed into the fort as the judges conducted the hearing, the first outside of a court since the trial began in November 2007.

Bouterse, who was elected president in a parliamentary vote in July, was not required to attend and spent the morning at his office, several hundred meters (yards) away, accepting the diplomatic credentials of the country's new Cuban and French ambassadors.

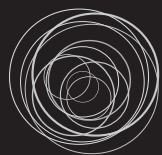
In the past, Bouterse has accepted "political responsibility" for the so-called December Killings while denying a direct role. As president he is not required to testify, and if convicted he could



Suriname's opposition leader Desi Bouterse, center, arrives to vote at a polling station on a day of general elections in Paramaribo, Tuesday May 25, 2010.

Associated Press

potentially engineer a pardon and avoid a 20-year sentence. Bouterse attorney Irwin Kanhai said the visit to the fort helped the defense because it showed how difficult it would have been for a key prosecution witness, former soldier Birendresingh Jankipersadsingh, to have seen his client at the time of the executions. "At least now you can see where the rooms and offices were and what the witnesses testified," he said. □



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Netanyahu tries to shore up support for U.S. plan

JOSEF FEDERMAN

Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — Despite seemingly premature congratulations from President Barack Obama, Israel's prime minister was scrambling Monday to secure enough Cabinet votes to pass a U.S. proposal to halt West Bank settlement construction for 90 days, aimed at restarting peace talks with the Palestinians. Benjamin Netanyahu is under heavy pressure to move forward with the plan, which could lead to critical negotiations on Israel's final borders with a future Palestine. Although Israeli officials say the plan includes an unprecedented gift of 20 stealth warplanes to Israel, Netanyahu faces opposition from hard-liners inside his coalition government who oppose limits on settlement construction in principle and fear it will create pressure for further concessions. Palestinians didn't embrace the plan either, since the proposed building freeze wouldn't include east Jerusalem, their hoped-for capital, and Israel would be rewarded for what they see as a minimal gesture. It appeared increasingly unlikely, however, that both sides, wary of upsetting Obama, would risk turning down the package. Officials said Netanyahu's 15-member Security Cabinet — a grouping of senior Cabinet ministers — would soon meet to vote on the proposal, possibly as early as Wednesday. The measure appeared poised to squeak through 7-6, with two ministers abstaining.

Opponents were gearing up as well. Yuli Edelstein, a Cabinet minister from Netanyahu's Likud Party, convened a group of hard-line lawmakers

and settler leaders to battle the proposal.

"We have 48 hours to operate," Edelstein said. "Any decision made by Israel is a one-way decision, and we have no way out."

Adding pressure on the Israeli leader, Obama commended Netanyahu late Sunday for considering the slowdown. "It's not easy for him to do, but I think it's a signal that he is serious," he said.

In another sign of difficulties in the process, State Department spokesman P.J. Crowley said Monday that Obama's September deadline for a peace accord may not be realistic. He said the administration still believes a deal can be reached in a "reasonable period of time." He did not elaborate.

The U.S. has been working for more than a month to revive Israeli-Palestinian peace talks, which opened with great fanfare at the White House in early September but broke down weeks later with the expiration of a 10-month Israeli slowdown on settlement construction.

The Palestinians say they cannot return to the negotiating table now that Israel has resumed settlement construction. They say it is a sign of bad faith if Israel insists on building on captured territories that the Palestinians claim for their future state.

Netanyahu has said the issue of Jewish settlements should be determined in negotiations. Israeli officials disclosed initial details of the U.S. compromise on Sunday, saying that Netanyahu had worked it out during a seven-hour meeting with Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton in New York last week.

The highlights include giving

Israel a gift of 20 F-35 stealth jets, worth about \$3 billion — in addition to 20 of the next-generation warplanes Israel has already ordered for purchase. It would mark the first time the U.S. has given warplanes to Israel without payment, defense officials and diplomats said.

Also in the deal are American guarantees that the U.S. would veto anti-Israel resolutions at the United Nations. With the Palestinians threatening to take their case to the U.N. if peace talks fail, this protection could be critical for Israel down the road.

While the U.S. routinely vetoes resolutions critical of Israel, American vetoes are not automatic, and some Israelis were uncertain Obama would back it at the Security Council. Cabinet Minister Dan Meridor told Israel's Channel 10 TV on Monday that U.S. veto protection against unilateral Palestinian U.N. initiatives would last for a year.

In return, Israel would halt most construction in the West Bank for 90 days, with the understanding that both sides would use the time to set their future border. A border deal would presumably make the settlement dispute moot, since Israel could resume construction on all territory it expects to keep while halting building in areas on the Palestinian side.

While Netanyahu has said little publicly, both Israeli and American officials say he supports the compromise and is trying to win Cabinet approval.

In a statement late Monday, Netanyahu said, "We are trying to resume negotiations with our Palestinian neighbors and promote peace accords with the rest of the Arab



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu listens during a press conference in Jerusalem, Monday, Nov. 15, 2010. Israel would be allowed to finish hundreds of apartments already under construction in West Bank settlements even if it agrees to a U.S.-drafted deal to renew a freeze on new construction, a diplomat familiar with the details said Monday.

countries."

In Paris, Israeli Defense Minister Ehud Barak praised the emerging deal. He noted that the warplanes, expected to be capable of reaching Iran undetected by radar, would help Israel maintain its "qualitative edge."

The Americans "fully understand that when Israel makes the concessions related to the peace agreement, it exposes itself to higher security risks. Here America can come to support us in deploying against the challenges of the future," Barak told reporters during an international gathering of Socialist leaders.

Israel considers its regional enemy Iran an existential threat because it is convinced Iran is trying to build nuclear weapons, despite Tehran's denials.

Some 300,000 Israelis now live in West Bank settlements, in addition to nearly 200,000 others in east Jerusalem. The Palestinians claim both areas, captured by Israel in the 1967 Mideast war, for a future state. Settler leaders and their parliament supporters

Associated Press

say Israel must retain these territories, citing security grounds and religious claims to what they say is land promised to the Jews in the Bible.

Support for that position among Israelis has been dropping steadily over the years, and polls show that more than half are prepared to relinquish control of much of the West Bank for peace.

The Palestinians are expected to formulate a response to the American proposal in consultation with the Arab League.

Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat said they wanted to get the proposal first hand from the Americans before responding. "Once we see it, we will meet and have a response," he said. The Palestinians have reacted coolly so far, alarmed that the building freeze wouldn't apply to east Jerusalem.

A diplomat familiar with the deal, speaking on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to divulge details, said that hundreds of apartments already under construction would be exempt from the freeze. □

Mexican hotel blast probe focuses on swamp gases

GABRIEL ALCOCER

Associated Press

PLAYA DEL CARMEN, Mexico (AP) — The throngs of tourists from Canada and other nations came to the palm-fringed Grand Riviera Princess hotel for luxury vacations and seaside honeymoons. None suspected that this slice of paradise was apparently sitting atop a ticking time bomb. The sprawling compound was built four years ago on a particularly swampy patch of Mexico's Caribbean coastline and may have been accumulating a deadly brew of explosive gases that ignited over the weekend, killing five Canadian visitors and two Mexican employees, officials said Monday. Investigators are focusing their probe of Sunday's blast on gases from rotting vegetable matter or waste, although some experts consulted by The

Associated Press said such a buildup would be unheard of. The official in charge of inspecting the 676-room resort in Playa del Carmen, south of Cancun, said the buildup was unexpected and went undetected in an inspection four or five months ago that included checks for dangerous gases. Results from recent inspections "were quite good," Playa del Carmen Civil Defense director Jesus Puc said. He added, however, that the inspectors' equipment is designed to detect butane used in cooking, not the type of gas emitted by swamps. Puc declined to specify what gas was likely involved or how long it took to accumulate in deadly amounts, saying those are questions to be answered in an investigation that is just beginning. But he said authorities have requested new equipment



Debris are seen scattered at the Grand Riviera Princess Hotel in Playa del Carmen, Quintana Roo state, Mexico, Sunday Nov. 14, 2010. A powerful explosion believed to have been caused by an accumulation of gas killed six people, including four Canadian tourists, and injured 15, according to Quintana Roo state Attorney General Francisco Alor.

Associated Press

capable of detecting swamp gases and plan to check other hotels in the area in the coming days. Asked how many resorts could be at risk, Puc demurred, saying there are "many, many hotels in the area," though "not all of them have such swampy areas." Ecologist and environmental activist Roberto Cudney called the explosion a predictable consequence of constructing resorts in the mangrove swamps that line the coast of the posh Riviera Maya. "It makes complete sense," said Cudney, who works for the environmental group Mexico Silvestre, based on the island of Cozumel just offshore from Playa de Carmen. "When you build over the mangrove ... it doesn't take away the whole ecological process that's going on there. You still have water filtration, you still have a lot of organic material," the breakdown of which releases gas. "It's just one of those things that weren't taken into account and now (Mexican authorities) are going, 'Oops,'" Cudney said. Still, other experts cast doubt upon the swamp gas hypothesis. Gabriela Lima, the head of the Environment Department for Quintana Roo state, where the resort is located, said the theory "sounds a bit strange."

"If that were the case, we'd have to see explosions throughout the Yucatan Peninsula every now and then, and we never have. This is something unique," Lima told the AP. The hotel's construction permits for the hotel were in order, Lima said. Adriana Rivera of the Office of the Attorney General for Environmental Protection said that in the agency's 18 years of existence, there was no record of a similar incident in a hotel, adding that such blasts are typically seen in factories or places where caustic or flammable materials are stored. Grand Riviera Princess representatives were not immediately available to take phone calls seeking comment Monday. Sunday's blast blew out windows in a lounge area, littering the lawn with shards of glass and metal debris, and left behind a crater 3 feet (1 meter) deep. Guests said it was so powerful it sucked the air out of the thatched-roofed buildings. "The velocity of the air coming back was incredible, so people were thrown around all over the place in the rooms and hallways," said Carson Arthur, a 39-year-old from Toronto who was vacationing with six friends. "There were several people in

the debris. There was a lot of people wounded from flying glass," he said. Among the dead was Malcolm Johnson, a real estate agent from British Columbia, who traveled to Mexico last week to get married, his friend David Komo said in an interview. Johnson's new bride and 1-year-old daughter were with him in Mexico, Komo said. Also killed were 41-year-old oil industry worker Chris Charmont and his 9-year-old son, John, from Alberta. Family friend Tammi Garbutt said the two went down for something to drink right before the blast. Charmont's wife, Terra, and their 10-year-old daughter, Megan, stayed up in the room. In addition to the dead, three Canadians and three Mexican employees remained hospitalized with injuries suffered in the blast. They were all in stable condition and were expected to recover, said Francisco Alor, attorney general of Quintana Roo. Most guests were Canadians in town for a convention or sunny winter getaways. Tourism to Mexico, the nation's No. 3 source of foreign revenue, has only recently begun recovering from a downturn caused by soaring drug violence, last year's swine flu epidemic and the world economic crisis. □

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the world are found back on the menu and they are already well known for the daily changing specials. If you have a large party, or if there is anything you feel like in particular, Fishes & More can always arrange to have your dinner cooked just for you, as they work

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Aqua Grill's award-winning chef offers a menu of classic and contemporary dishes. The fresh seafood is prepared in a variety of regional styles, melding local island charm with the traditions of New England, the spices of Jamaica, the zesty flavors of Italy, the mystique of Indonesia, and beyond. In addition to a selection of authentic dishes, your seafood

can also be prepared wood-grilled, broiled, poached, steamed, or pan-fried upon request. Complimenting the menu is the island's largest raw bar and a generous wine list of over one hundred selections.

Set in a contemporary decor combining the traditions of a New England fish house with the ease and character of the Caribbean, Aqua Grill's warm, island hospitality is the final ingredient to the complete dining experience on Aruba.

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Boise State football players take the field at the Kibbie Dome in Moscow, Idaho, for an NCAA college football game against Idaho, Friday, Nov. 12, 2010. The future of the rivalry between Idaho and Boise State is in doubt because of BSU's pending move to the Mountain West Conference and their desire not to make the trip every other year to Moscow. Boise State beat Idaho, 52-14.

Associated Press

Boise State narrows gap on TCU in BCS standings

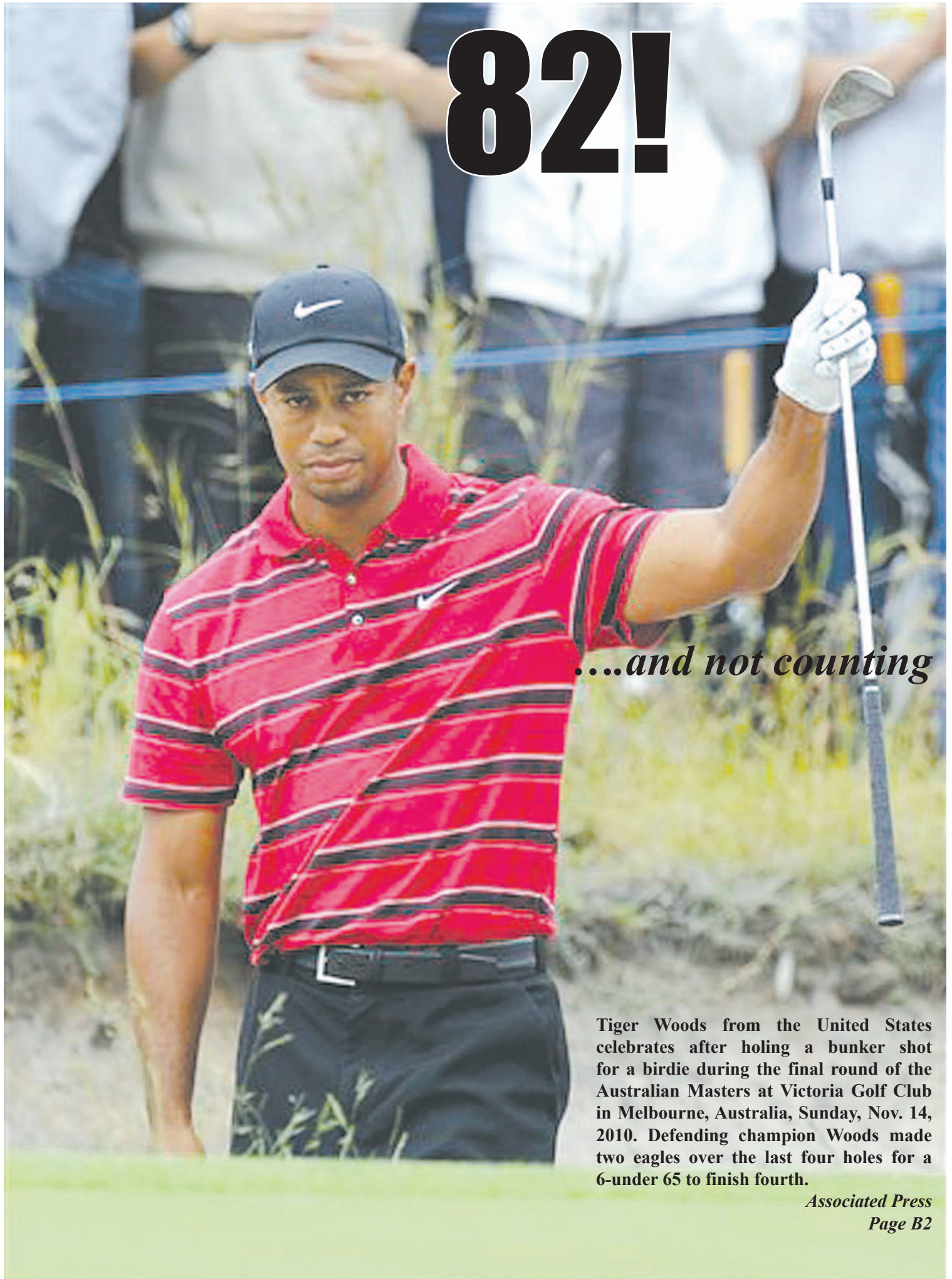
By RALPH D. RUSSO

AP College Football Writer

NEW YORK — Watch out, TCU. Boise State is gaining. The Broncos narrowed the gap on the Horned Frogs in the Bowl Championship Series standings and put themselves in position to pass their BCS Buster rivals down the stretch. Oregon and Auburn are still in the top two spots in the standings released Sunday. TCU remained third, but had a bad week in BCS terms. The Horned Frogs and Broncos are vying for two prizes. The team in third place in the BCS standings is likely to be next in line for the national championship game if Auburn or Oregon slip up down the stretch.

Auburn plays Alabama the day after Thanksgiving and South Carolina in the Southeastern Conference title game.

Continued on Page B4



82!

....and not counting

Tiger Woods from the United States celebrates after holing a bunker shot for a birdie during the final round of the Australian Masters at Victoria Golf Club in Melbourne, Australia, Sunday, Nov. 14, 2010. Defending champion Woods made two eagles over the last four holes for a 6-under 65 to finish fourth.

*Associated Press
Page B2*

Posey, Feliz picked as Rookies of the Year

Page B7



In this Oct. 26, 2010 file photo, Miami Heat forward LeBron James walks up court against the Boston Celtics during the second half of their NBA basketball game in Boston. Voters' boxes are overflowing with millions of pieces of political mail just days before they pick candidates on Tuesday. The candidates, their allies, and certainly, their enemies, are flooding inboxes with glossy mailers laden with some of the election's harshest rhetoric.

Associated Press

LeBron humbled by Person of Year award nomination

TIM REYNOLDS

AP Sports Writer

MIAMI (AP) — If the Miami Heat changing room was polled, LeBron James would not have unanimous support in the race for Time's Person of the Year.

James wouldn't even vote for himself.

Calling it "crazy" just to be on the list of finalists for the award, the NBA's reigning two-time MVP seemed almost a bit embarrassed on Monday when he learned that he was one of the final 25 names under consideration. The winner of the award, bestowed since 1927 on a person or group who "has done the most to influence the events of the year," is expected to be revealed next month.

"I am who I am and I think I'm in a position of my life where I'm going to get better every day," James said after Miami wrapped up its practice Monday. "But it's too much." □



Tiger Woods from the United States gestures after teeing off during the final round of the Australian Masters at Victoria Golf Club in Melbourne, Australia, Sunday, Nov. 14, 2010. Defending champion Woods made two eagles over the last four holes for a 6-under 65 to finish fourth.

Associated Press

Tiger Woods still stuck on 82 wins

DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP) — The trophy case for Tiger Woods is collecting dust.

He finally gave the big crowds at Victoria Golf Club something to cheer in the final hour of the Australian Masters by making two eagles in a four-hole stretch and closing with a 6-under 65 to get his name on the leaderboard for the first time all weekend.

At one point he was two shots behind, but Woods knew better. There was no point in sticking around. This tournament was going to be like so many others in a season that can't end soon enough. He stuffed his golf clubs into the trunk of a black sedan waiting to take him to the airport so he could head home.

For the first time in his career, Woods is no longer the defending champion of anything, anywhere in the world.

"I tried all week," he said. "Unfortunately, I didn't do it. I didn't play good enough. Didn't make enough putts. That's what happens."

When he won the Australian Masters a year ago at Kingston Heath, it was his 82nd victory around the world.

That remains his last.

Twelve days later, Woods ran his SUV over a fire hydrant and into a tree, and it wasn't long before allegations of infidelity came gushing out. What followed was a year not many could have expected. He sat out for nearly five months, including two months in a rehabilitation clinic. He changed swing coaches. His wife divorced him.

And he didn't win a single tournament — not even close.

Stuart Appleby made it official an hour later when he birdied the last two holes for his own 65, which turned into a one-shot victory when Adam Bland missed

a 10-foot eagle putt on the last hole that would have forced a playoff.

Woods finished alone in fourth, recording consecutive top 10s for the first time all year. He finished three shots behind, the closest he has been to a winner since he was three back of Graeme McDowell at the U.S. Open.

Perhaps it was only fitting that Appleby posed with the crystal trophy before thousands who stuck around for the ceremony.

Tournament organizers, determined to raise the profile of the Australian Masters by bringing it world renowned players, signed up Sergio Garcia in the spring and added Camilo Villegas, Kapalua winner Geoff Ogilvy and Robert Allenby, the highest-ranked Australian. Woods also returned to defend his title.

Their faces were on the promotional posters around Melbourne. They were the guests at the gala dinner. Appleby wasn't even invited to take part in a news conference before the tournament, even though he got his name in the PGA Tour record book this year by becoming only the second player to close with a 59, at The Greenbrier Classic.

"I noticed it, but it was not even close to annoying me," Appleby said Sunday. "I have an ego, no doubt about it. But it wasn't like, 'Oh, they haven't got me up there?' It's the Tiger Woods show, and the others. You know what? It didn't play out that way."

Woods still has one tournament left in 2010. After two weeks at home — including Thanksgiving, the day his troubles began — he hosts the Chevron World Challenge with a world-class field of 18 players. Woods has not lost at Sherwood since 2005.

He feels his game is coming around under Sean Foley, although he only sees patches of it for now, such as the final six holes he

played at Victoria, or the end of his Ryder Cup singles match when he played the final seven holes in 7-under par.

"It's coming in streaks," Woods said. "I played like this in the Ryder Cup, got into a streak there, went pretty low for 15 holes. This is very similar to that. I just need to get it for all 18 holes, and eventually, for all 72. The streaks are longer now."

How much longer will it take? Woods laughed.

"Hopefully, in two weeks at Chevron," he said. The culprit at the Australian Masters, as has been the case for so much of the year, was his putting. On greens that were slower than he realized — even tougher with weekend rain and cloud cover — Woods finally switched putters. He ditched his trusted Scotty Cameron for a Nike Method, a heel-shafted putter that he practices with at home. It helps him get a little more pace on the ball, which is why he switched to a similar Nike putter for three rounds at the British Open.

Both times, the result was not inspiring. Woods missed two par putts inside 4 feet on the front nine Sunday, falling as many as 12 shots behind. The finish he put together only looked good for the final score.

"I struggled this week with the speed of the greens," he said.

Appleby had no such trouble, especially at the end. He rallied from a seven-shot deficit in the final round, stayed in the game by making a 30-foot par putt on the 16th, pulled ahead with a 25-foot birdie on the 17th and two-putted for birdie on the final hole.

It was a big win for Appleby, every bit as important as The Greenbrier, for different reasons. It had been nine years since he last won on Australian soil, and his victory Sunday gave him a sweep of the biggest tournaments Down Under. □

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Islanders fire coach Gordon, promote Capuano

IRA PODELL

AP Hockey Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Scott Gordon was fired as coach of the New York Islanders on Monday during a 10-game losing streak that left the team at the bottom of the NHL standings.

He was replaced on an interim basis by Jack Capuano, coach of the Islanders' AHL affiliate. He joins a team that was swept on a three-game California road trip and is winless in its last 10 games. His Islander coaching debut is at home Wednesday against Tampa Bay. Gordon was a relative unknown from the AHL when hired by the Islanders in 2008. In two-plus seasons with New York, Gordon went 64-94-23. He will remain with the organization as an adviser to general manager Garth Snow. This was the last year of Gordon's contract.

"When we're in a situation we're in right now — we've lost 10 games in a row — sometimes you have to go with your gut and make decisions that are tough," Snow said during a conference call.

Snow wouldn't say how long Capuano would remain coach, not even committing to keeping him for the rest of the season.

"We're just concerned about Wednesday," Snow said.

The Islanders (4-10-3) have been ahead in a game only once during the skid, a 1-0 lead at San Jose on

Thursday that ended as a 2-1 loss in a shootout. New York started the season 4-2-1 and created optimism when they briefly rose to the top of the Eastern Conference.

But long-term injuries to key forward Kyle Okposo and top defenseman Mark Streit left the low-budget team without much depth that could sustain a good run. "We believe we need a change in direction and, with the majority of the regular season still ahead of us, our goal remains to qualify for the Stanley Cup playoffs," Snow said. "Scott has made tremendous strides with our team the past three seasons and I look forward to continuing our relationship in an advisory capacity."

The Islanders have scored only 37 goals in 17 games for an average of 2.17 per game. Only New Jersey and

Florida have scored fewer.

"The biggest issue with our team right now is offense," Snow said. "We obviously have a young group of players with a good group of veterans. Our focus right now is to win a game on Wednesday."

Capuano was 133-100-8-14 with the Bridgeport Sound Tigers. He joined the Islanders as an assistant coach for the 2005-06 season after serving as general manager of the ECHL's Pee Dee Pride from 1997-2005.

He is familiar with many of the Islanders' young players who were with Bridgeport before reaching the NHL and from his work with the team during training camp.

"There is a comfort knowing there doesn't have to be a feeling-out process with our players," Snow said. □



In this April 9, 2009 file photo, New York Islanders coach Scott Gordon works behind the bench during the first period against the Pittsburgh Penguins in a NHL hockey game in Pittsburgh. The New York Islanders have fired coach Scott Gordon and replaced him on an interim basis with minor league coach Jack Capuano.

Associated Press

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Miami Dolphins quarterback Chad Pennington, right, fakes a handoff to running back Ronnie Brown (23) during the first quarter of an NFL football game against the Tennessee Titans, Sunday, Nov. 14, 2010, in Miami.

By STEVEN WINE
AP Sports Writer

DAVIE, Fla. — Playing for the first time this season, Chad Pennington was so reluctant to leave the field that he asked a teammate to pop his injured right shoulder back into place.

After being hurt on the Miami Dolphins' first play, Pennington extended his right arm toward running back Ronnie Brown.

"He's in the huddle and he said, 'Pull it,'" Brown said. "I'm scared. I don't want to

pull it too hard — I'll mess it up. I gave a small tug."

The emergency procedure failed to help. Pennington came out of the game, and now his season is over — and perhaps even his career. Pennington was placed on reserve-injured Monday, part of the fallout from a quarterback calamity in Sunday's victory over Tennessee. Chad Henne was also hurt but might be available for Thursday night's game against the Chicago Bears, coach Tony

Associated Press

Miami QB Chad Pennington out for the rest of the season

Sparano said.

Third-string quarterback Tyler Thigpen is the most likely starter against the Bears after closing out the weird win over the Titans. To replace Pennington on the roster, the Dolphins signed veteran Patrick Ramsey, who may become the backup Thursday.

Ramsey, an eight-year veteran, was signed after a hastily arranged tryout Monday. He last played in 2008 with Denver and was most recently with Jacksonville this season.

Pennington, 34, has undergone surgery three times on his throwing shoulder. Promoted to the starting job when Henne was benched last week, Pennington suffered his latest injury on his first play since hurting the shoulder in Game 3 last year.

"Devastating," teammate Davone Bess said. "You can't really even put it in words."

"Obviously everybody is disappointed," Sparano said. "I know exactly how hard the guy had to work to get back. This guy is a real pro. He has meant an awful lot to me and this team."

Injury issues weren't limited to quarterback. Pro Bowl tackle Jake Long hurt his shoulder against the Titans, and his availability was uncertain. Like Long, AFC sack leader Cameron Wake (hip) and safety Chris Clemons (groin) finished Sunday's game on the bench. "We have a lot of guys bumped up right now," Sparano said. "We're sorting through it all."

As he spoke, Henne was in the training room being treated for a left knee injury that sidelined him in the third quarter.

Turnaround time is brief for the Dolphins (5-4), with only a single practice — on Tuesday — between games. "It's probably good, because we don't have time to dwell on things," receiver Brian Hartline said. "We've got to win games."

The short week of preparation makes it less likely Henne will be able to recover enough to start, but Sparano was noncommittal.

"We'll see. Right now we are day to day," he said. "Tyler will be ready, depending on what Chad Henne does this week."

Thigpen started 11 games for

the Chiefs in 2008 but has thrown only 20 passes the past two years. He entered Sunday's game in the fourth quarter and led an 85-yard touchdown drive that sealed the 29-17 win.

Thigpen finished 4 for 6 for 64 yards and a score, a remarkably polished performance considering he has been mostly a spectator at practice this season.

"As a No. 3, that's what it is — you don't get any reps," he said. "The No. 1 gets about 80 percent, and the 2 gets about 20 percent of the reps. But the 3 has to just sit back there and mentally rep every play."

The injuries prompted Miami to go without a quarterback for five consecutive plays against the Titans, instead resorting to the wildcat. Brown took those snaps and joked that he'll have his throwing arm warmed up Thursday.

Hartline and fellow receiver Bess pointed out they both played QB in high school and were available for emergency duty.

"We're loaded, man," Bess said. "Whenever my number is called, I'm going to be ready." □

BCS STANDINGS

Continued from Page B1

Oregon has off this weekend, followed by a home game against Arizona and a road game against Oregon State.

Even if a title game spot doesn't up, TCU and Boise State are still competing for an automatic BCS bid, one that would likely send the highest ranked team to the Rose Bowl while the other could get left out of the BCS all together.

The Horned Frogs played their closest game of the season Saturday, a 40-35 victory against San Diego State in which they allowed the Aztecs back in the game with two long fourth-quarter touchdown passes.

TCU also was hurt by Utah's 28-3 loss at Notre Dame.

The Horned Frogs beat the previously unbeaten Utes 47-7 in their prior game. It looked like a big win at the time and helped TCU widen its lead on Boise State in the BCS standings.

A week later, beating the Utes doesn't look so impressive and Boise State has crept closer. The Broncos beat Idaho 52-14 on Friday night.

"It was as bad a day as you can have and not lose your game," BCS analyst Jerry Palm said about TCU's Saturday.

With three more games to play, compared with one for TCU, the Broncos might have enough left to edge past the Frogs.

Boise State jumped TCU and moved into third in both the Harris and coaches'

polls, though in both cases the Broncos and Frogs are separated by less than a dozen points. TCU still holds a decided edge in the computer ratings at third compared to Boise State's sixth.

That leaves Boise State with a BCS average of .8634 and TCU with an average of .8966. "A lot can happen in three weeks, (the Broncos) have a very slight lead in the polls, but they still have a lot of ground to make up and the strength of the conference schedule has yet to come," Palm said.

Boise State plays Fresno State (6-3), Nevada (9-1), 18th in the BCS standings, and Utah State (4-6) over the next three weeks.

TCU has a week off before closing its season against New



In this Sept. 18, 2010, file photo TCU's Logan Sligar (59), Spencer Thompson (77) and Trevius Jones (68) lead their teammates in song along with the student body in the stands following an NCAA college football game against Baylor. After 80 years, TCU's campus stadium is set for a major modernizing renovation.

Associated Press

Mexico (1-9). "TCU is done making their case. They're out of the national spotlight," Palm

said. "Boise has the floor to themselves to do what they can. That's an advantageous position to be." □

Spurs winning streak reaches seven, beat Thunder

NBA Roundup

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — The San Antonio Spurs stretched their NBA winning streak to seven games with a 117-104 win over the Oklahoma City Thunder on Sunday.

Matt Bonner scored 21 points and just missed the Spurs franchise record by hitting all seven of his 3-point shots. Bonner swished home three of his 3s during a 21-8 run to open the fourth quarter, and the NBA's best 3-point shooting team went 6-for-8 from behind the arc to pull away in the final period.

Bonner fell one shy of Steve Smith's record for 3-point accuracy. He went 8-for-8 against Portland in 2001-02.

Tony Parker scored 24 points for the Spurs.

Kevin Durant had a season-low 23 points for the Thunder.

Suns 121, Lakers 116

In Los Angeles, Phoenix hit the second most 3-pointers in NBA history to beat Los Angeles.

Jason Richardson scored 34 points and Steve Nash added 21 points and 13 assists for the Suns.

Phoenix was 22 of 40 from 3-point range, just missing the league record of 23 set by Orlando against Sacramento two seasons ago.

It was the Lakers first home defeat this season.

Hawks 111, Timberwolves 105

In Atlanta, the hosts won their first game in five, defeating Minnesota.

Al Horford had 28 points and 10 rebounds despite needing three stitches on the top of his head following a first-quarter collision with Anthony

Tolliver and only returning midway through the second.

Josh Smith had 23 points and 10 rebounds for Atlanta.

Michael Beasley led the Timberwolves with 25 points while Kevin Love had 22 points and 17 rebounds in his first game since posting the NBA's first 30 point-30 rebound game since 1982.

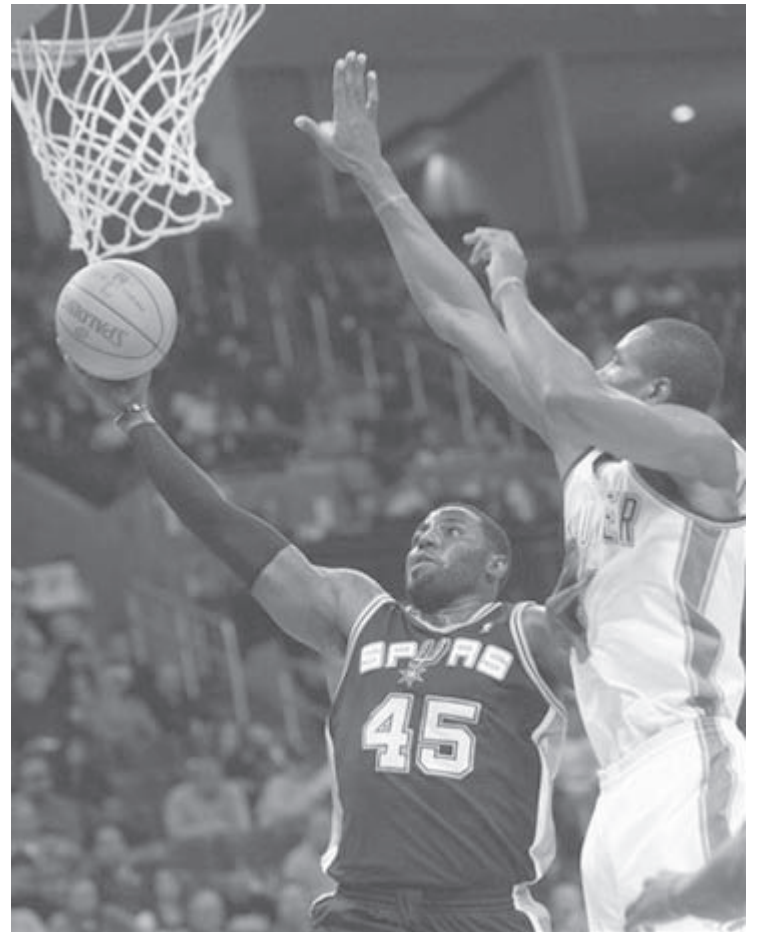
Pistons 100, Kings 94

In Sacramento, Detroit won to condemn Sacramento to its fifth consecutive loss.

Rodney Stuckey scored 17 points and Ben Gordon hit a key late 3-pointer for the Pistons, who are gradually recovering from an 0-5 start.

Gordon's 3-pointer from the corner put the Pistons ahead 99-94 with 23.9 seconds left. He finished with 16 points.

Tyreke Evans scored 20 points to lead the Kings.



San Antonio Spurs center DeJuan Blair, left, shoots in front of Oklahoma City Thunder forward Serge Ibaka, left, during the second quarter of an NBA basketball game in Oklahoma City, Sunday, Nov. 14, 2010.

Associated Press

Pirates hire Clint Hurdle as manager

By ALAN ROBINSON

AP Sports Writer

PITTSBURGH — The Pittsburgh Pirates thought they were interviewing Clint Hurdle. Turns out he was interviewing them as well. As the Pirates asked him about his managerial style, Hurdle quizzed ownership and management about their plans to turn around one of the least-successful franchises in the four major pro sports. He liked the answers and, despite some of his close friends' misgivings, he liked a job that some in baseball would be hesitant to take.

Hurdle, hired Monday as the Pirates' sixth manager since their last winning season in 1992, insists he's not intimidated at taking over a team that lost 105 games last season and has averaged 97 losses over the last six seasons. "This wasn't about taking a job because it was a sure thing," Hurdle said. "This was about taking an opportunity that felt sure and fit right. I felt comfortable with the people I was going to get after the job with. ... I'm proud to be a Pirate, and we're not going to back down from anybody."

Hurdle, who managed the Colorado Rockies to the 2007 NL pennant, is convinced owner Bob Nutting, president Frank Coonelly and general manager Neal Huntington are determined to win, despite the Pirates' record run of 18 consecutive losing seasons, the accompanying low payrolls and frequent roster turnovers.

"I looked them in the eyes and asked them, 'Are you in?'" Hurdle said. "And to a man they looked me in the eye and said, 'We're in.' ... I was extremely appreciate of the way

the men defended the fort."

The 53-year-old Hurdle knows he repeated some of what predecessors Jim Leyland, Gene Lamont, Lloyd McClendon, Jim Tracy and John Russell promised when they also said they could work with young talent and make it better, and win despite severe fiscal restraints.

"I've been at the front end of these news conferences, and the back end," said Hurdle, who was hired as Colorado's manager in 2002 and fired in 2009. "A guy comes in and he says, 'We're going to do this, we're going to do that.' If you replay the tape, the guy before him said the same thing. I'm well aware of the history, the road traveled. But I know where I want to go."

Hurdle, the hitting coach for the AL champion Texas Rangers last season, replaces John Russell, who was fired the day after completing a 105-loss season — the Pirates' worst in 58 years. Russell's teams, thinned by the trades of nearly every productive everyday player, lost 299 games in three seasons.

The Pirates brought up promising center fielder Andrew McCutchen, third baseman Pedro Alvarez, second baseman Neil Walker and left fielder Jose Tabata over the last 1 1/2 seasons. But with little talent to complement them, the Pirates were last in pitching, second from the bottom in hitting and tied for the major league lead in errors last season.

To finish .500 next season, the Pirates must win 24 more games than they did in 2010. And much of the promising talent they've drafted since 2008 remains years away. □

Rockets 104, Knicks 96

In New York, Houston climbed a little further out of the hole they dug to start the season by beating struggling New York.

Kevin Martin scored 28 points and Luis Scola added 24 for the Rockets, who have won three of four after opening the season with five straight losses. Even without injured starters Yao Ming and Aaron Brooks, they beat the Knicks for the 13th time in 15

meetings.

Amare Stoudemire scored 25 points for New York, which was loudly booed in the fourth quarter of a fifth straight loss. The Knicks missed their first eight shots in the final period to turn this game into a rout.

In other NBA games it was Atlanta 111, Minnesota 105; Detroit 100, Sacramento 94; San Antonio 117, Oklahoma City 104; Houston 104, New York 96; and Phoenix 121, L.A. Lakers 116. □

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World record holder Haile Gebrselassie, center, of Ethiopia, runs with the men's pack during the New York City Marathon, Sunday, Nov. 7, 2010, in New York. Gebrselassie dropped out at mile 16 with a right knee injury.

ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia (AP) — Ethiopian long-distance great Haile Gebrselassie has changed his mind about retiring and said Monday he will run until the London 2012 Olympics. “I want to thank everybody

Associated Press who supported me last week and gave me trust that I could still continue my career and that I can continue my road to London 2012,” Gebrselassie said Monday in a statement. “Running is in my blood and now my mind is clear again I

Gebrselassie calls off short-lived retirement

can continue competing.” The 37-year-old runner had announced his sudden retirement after pulling out of the New York Marathon on Nov. 7 with 10 miles to go because of a knee injury. But he immediately began reassessing the decision. “My announcement in New York was my first reaction after a disappointing race,” Gebrselassie said on his Twitter account. “When my knee is better again I will start focussing on my next race.” Gebrselassie's manager, Jos Hermens, told The

Associated Press last week that Gebrselassie was in an emotional state when he made the surprise announcement in New York. Hermens went to Ethiopia last weekend to talk to Gebrselassie. “Gebrselassie took some time to think things over,” Hermens said in a statement. “Coming back to Ethiopia, he was overloaded with heartwarming reactions from all over the world.” Gebrselassie won two Olympic 10,000-meter gold medals, four outdoor world titles and set the marathon

world record of 2 hours, 3 minutes, 59 seconds in Berlin in 2008. Gebrselassie skipped the marathon at the 2008 Beijing Olympics for fear that pollution would affect his running. He ran the 10,000 meters instead and finished sixth. Hermens said that doctors assessed his knee at the New York Marathon and found “he had the knees of a young man” and should not face age-related problems in the run-up to the London Games. □

Cavendish to compete in Tour Down Under in January

ADELAIDE, Australia (AP) — British cyclist Mark Cavendish will compete for the first time in Australia's Tour Down Under in January. Organizers said Tuesday that Cavendish, regarded as the best sprinter in world road cycling, will race for the HTC Highroad team in the Jan. 16-23 stage race in South Australia. Race director Mike Turtur said Cavendish was “undoubtedly one of, if not the best sprinter in the world.” American pair Lance Armstrong and Tyler Farrar and Andre Greipel of Germany will also compete in the opening event of the 2011 Pro Tour season. Greipel, a two-time winner of the Tour Down Under, was until recently a teammate of Cavendish. “It's going to be great to watch Cavendish and

Greipel go head-to-head in Adelaide,” Turtur said. “They are superb sprinters and it will be fascinating to see who will come out on top.” Cavendish said he was looking forward to returning to Australia. “I have been to Australia six or seven times and I love going there,” he said. “After spending time again there recently at the world championships, I'm eager to get back there for some more racing.” The Isle of Man sprinter, known as the Manx Missile, has won 15 stages in the Tour de France, five in the Giro d'Italia, and four alone in this year's Spanish Vuelta to take the overall points jersey. Cavendish also won the prestigious Milan-San Remo race in 2009. □



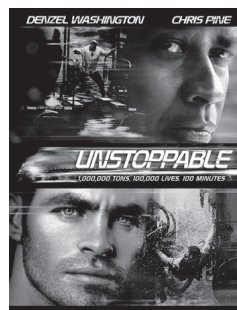
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Posey, Feliz picked as Rookies of the Year

By BEN WALKER

AP Baseball Writer

NEW YORK — San Francisco Giants catcher Buster Posey and Texas Rangers closer Neftali Feliz wound up together on the winning side Monday when they voted the Rookies of the Year.

Earlier this month, Posey singled off Feliz as the Giants beat Texas in the clinching Game 5 of the World Series.

“It’s hard to believe it’s been two weeks,” Posey said.

Posey hit several key home runs and helped the Giants win the crown for the first time since 1954. He easily outdistanced Atlanta outfielder Jason Heyward for the National League award.

Feliz, the rocket-armed righty who set a rookie record with 40 saves as Texas reached its first World Series, finished far ahead of Detroit center fielder Austin Jackson for the AL honor.

“I hope it’s not a fluke. I hope I have a better season next year,” the 22-year-old Dominican reliever said through a translator on a conference call.

Promoted from Triple-A on May 29, Posey quickly adjusted to the big leagues — both at the plate and behind it.

The 23-year-old Posey hit .305 with 18 home runs and 67 RBIs. He homered eight times after Sept. 1 in leading the Giants to the NL West title, and his homer on the final day of the regular season helped them clinch the division.

Posey was picked first on 20 of 32 ballots in voting by members of the Baseball Writers’ Association of America. Voting was done by two members of the BBWAA in every league city after the regular season, with each person



This Sept. 3, 2010 file photo shows San Francisco Giants catcher Buster Posey, left, tagging out Andre Ethier of the Los Angeles Dodgers, after Posey dropped the ball on strike three during the fifth inning of a baseball game in Los Angeles.

listing three players.

Posey was left off the ballot by Yasushi Kikuchi of Kyodo News from the Los Angeles-Anaheim chapter. Kikuchi chose Florida first baseman Gaby Sanchez first, Heyward second and St. Louis pitcher Jaime Garcia third.

“I think Rookie of the Year is for the rookie player who plays better than any other through the entire season. From this standpoint, Gaby and Jason produced more hits and played more games than Posey. Also, Jaime Garcia pitched as a starter through the entire season,” Kikuchi said in an e-mail to The Associated Press.

Born Gerald Dempsey Posey III, the nickname “Buster” runs in his family. He was driving with his wife to the Florida Keys when he got word that he had won. He acknowledged he was wondering about the outcome.

“I think I’d be lying to you if I said I didn’t think about it,” he said on a conference call.

Feliz got 20 first-place votes and was listed on all 28 ballots. He drew seven seconds and one third. He was at Rangers Ballpark,

where the World Series ended, when he found out he’d won.

The NL Cy Young will be the next major award to be announced. Philadelphia ace Roy Halladay is considered the front-runner for Tuesday.

Posey hit third and even cleanup for the Giants as they brought the championship to San Francisco for the first time. He was equally praised for handling a pitching staff that seemed to get better throughout the postseason. Posey became the first Rookie of the Year winner to become a World Series champion in the same season since Boston’s Dustin Pedroia in 2007. The last NL player to do it was Florida’s Dontrelle Willis in 2003.

A star at Florida State, the Georgia native went to see the Seminoles play Clemson last weekend. Several football fans in the crowd recognized one of baseball’s fastest-rising stars.

“That was nice,” he said.

Posey played briefly at first base when he was called up, then moved to catcher when the Giants traded Bengie



This Oct. 22, 2010 file photo shows Texas Rangers relief pitcher Neftali Feliz celebrating after striking out New York Yankees’ Alex Rodriguez for the final out in the Rangers’ 6-1 win in Game 6 of baseball’s American League Championship Series in Arlington, Texas.

Associated Press

Molina to Texas. He had a 21-game hitting streak in July.

Posey finished with 129 points in the rookie voting. Heyward, who hit .277 with 18 home runs and 72 RBIs, got nine first-place ballots and 107 points.

Garcia drew one first-place vote and 24 points. Sanchez got the other two first-place votes and had 18 points. Posey was the sixth Giants player to win the honor that was first awarded to Jackie Robinson in 1947. Willie Mays, Orlando Cepeda, Willie McCovey, Gary Matthews and John Montefusco also won. Montefusco was the most recent, in 1975.

Six catchers have won in the NL, with the Cubs’ Geovany Soto the most recent in 2008.

Feliz went 4-3 with a 2.73 ERA in 59 games and finished with 122 points. He was a players’ pick for the All-Star team this season. Jackson, who hit .293, scored 103 runs and showed great range in center field, drew the other eight first-place votes and had 98 points. Minnesota third baseman Danny Valencia was third with 12 points.

Feliz didn’t start the season as the Texas closer. Frank Francisco held that role, but lost the spot after blowing two early save chances and Feliz took over.

“At first, I didn’t feel very comfortable,” he said.

In fact, Feliz went to spring training trying to win a spot as a starter.

“I prepared as hard as I could to win a spot in the rotation. It didn’t work out,” he said.

For the Rangers, it all worked out more than fine. Feliz went 40 for 43 on save chances and broke the rookie record of 37 saves set by 2000 AL Rookie of the Year Kazuhiro Sasaki of Seattle. Feliz later became the second-youngest pitcher to earn a save in the World Series, behind only Bob Welch.

This was the third time in the last six seasons that a closer won the AL award. Oakland’s Andrew Bailey won last year and Huston Street of the A’s got the award in 2005.

Feliz, who got a \$10,000 bonus, became the second Texas player to win, joining Mike Hargrove from 1974. Posey did not have a bonus provision in his contract. □

Unlikely pair: Dallas, Colorado vie for MLS Cup

NANCY ARMOUR

AP National Writer

No one is overlooking FC Dallas anymore.

Given little chance to beat either Real Salt Lake or the Los Angeles Galaxy, the league's best teams in the regular season by far, Dallas knocked off both of them to earn the Western Conference title and a spot in its first MLS Cup. FC Dallas will play the Colorado Rapids on Sunday in Toronto.

"There's a little bit of a motivating factor for some of the guys that want to disprove the naysayers," Dallas goalkeeper Kevin Hartman said Monday. "But the reality is, we think we deserve this." Few people would have expected a Dallas-Colorado matchup when the playoffs began. The Galaxy (59 points) and defending MLS champion Real Salt Lake (56) had battled all season for the best record in the league, with the East-leading New York Red Bulls five points behind. Los Angeles has Landon Donovan, David Beckham and Edson Buddle, who was the league's leading scorer for most of the season despite missing more than a month for the World Cup. The Red Bulls were re-energized by the midseason addition of international stars Thierry



LEFT: Colorado Rapids' Drew Moor, left, and Julien Baudet celebrate an MLS Eastern Conference championship against the San Jose Earthquakes Saturday, Nov. 13, 2010, in Commerce City, Colo. Colorado beat San Jose 1-0 to advance to the MLS championship in Toronto. **RIGHT:** FC Dallas players, from left, Brek Shea, Dax McCarty and George John celebrate after an MLS soccer Western Conference semifinal against Real Salt Lake on Saturday, Nov. 6, 2010, in Sandy, Utah. FC Dallas won the series. The teams tied at 1-1 in Saturday's game.

Henry and Rafael Marquez. Dallas, meanwhile, dropped its last two regular-season games — to Salt Lake and the Galaxy, naturally — while Colorado finished seventh-best among the eight playoff teams. But Dallas didn't tie the MLS record with a 19-game unbeaten streak this year by being lucky. It held off Salt Lake in the first round, then played what Dallas coach Schellas Hyndman called a "perfect game" Sunday night in a 3-0 upset of Los Angeles. "For a coach, (being overlooked) was a great motivational tool," Hyndman said. "We played well all year and all I ever said to the guys

was, 'You are a good team. You are a good team, and I'd rather be coaching you than any other team in the league. Believe in it and go out and perform.'" Hartman turned back the Galaxy time and again in the first half, including a diving stop on a blistering shot by Donovan from 31 yards. Hartman, who considered retirement earlier this year, finished with six saves. David Ferreira, one of three nominees for league MVP, scored in the 21st minute, disrupting Los Angeles' game plan and forcing it to play for the equalizer. George John and Marvin Chavez scored in the

second half to seal the victory. "It was a fantastic result for Dallas and not, I would think, how most pundits would have expected that game to unfold," Colorado coach Gary Smith said. "On an evening that must have been quite pressurized for them, going to Los Angeles and getting the result they did showed the quality of character they possess. "But it's nothing new. They played some very good football all year." As did the Rapids, who lost just three times in their last 14 games. The Rapids and FC Dallas drew in both their meetings during the regular season, with Colorado getting

a second-half goal to salvage the draw in Dallas.

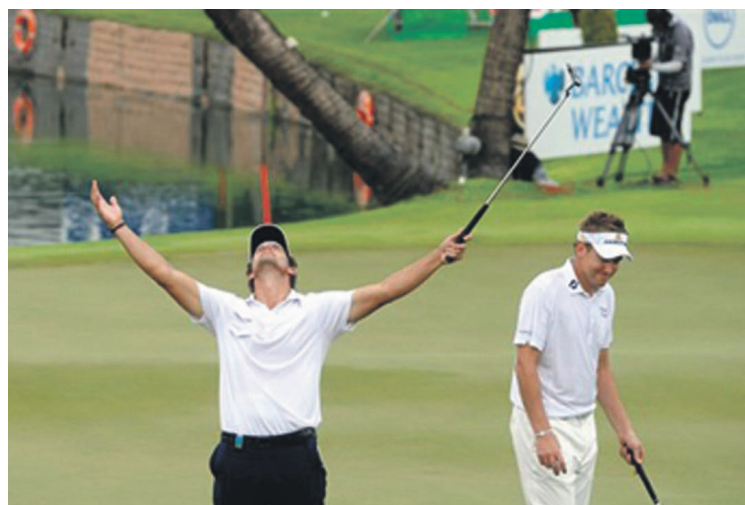
"We had all the tools we needed to beat Dallas," Smith said. "We've got a group of players that are very well-versed in the system they play. They're very comfortable with each other. We have two extremely good forwards who work well together and who are very creative. We have strength coming of the bench at important moments who can keep the momentum going.

"We're very comfortable in how we play, and we'll be very capable of putting this team under pressure," Smith said. "No doubt."

The forecast for Sunday's game is a high of 44 with a few showers, conditions that would seem to favor Colorado.

But if naysayers, Real Salt Lake and the Galaxy couldn't rattle Dallas, the odds are that bad weather won't either.

"If you can't get motivated for a MLS Cup, you have bigger issues than anything," Hartman said. "This is what you dream about. This is an opportunity to do something you've worked your entire life for. You've got one more week, you're going to lay it all on the line and do whatever you possibly can to help this team win." □



Adam Scott of Australia poses with his trophy after winning the Singapore Barclays Open golf tournament, Monday, Nov. 15, 2010, in Singapore.

Associated Press

SINGAPORE (AP) — Adam Scott shot a 3-under-par 68 to win his third Singapore Open by three strokes, completing his final 10 holes Monday after a lengthy thunderstorm suspension Sunday.

Scott, who won at the Sentosa Golf Club in 2005 and 2006, had a 72-hole total of 17-under-par 267. Anders Hansen of Denmark shot 68 to finish second, and Sweden's Rikard Karlberg

Adam Scott wins Singapore Open for third time

(67) and U.S. Open champion Graeme McDowell of Northern Ireland (70) were tied for third, four shots behind Scott.

Scott took over the lead in the second round, opening with rounds of 65 and a 69. On Monday, he three-putted the 14th for a bogey, but finished with a birdie from 12 feet on 18 to win his seventh European tour title and first in 2 1/2 years.

"It feels great," Scott said. "Relief to finally get finished, it's been a bit of a long week. "I haven't been putting my best lately and the demons started

creeping in on the back nine. But it's a course I absolutely love and I've played so many great shots here."

Hansen, who has won two European tour events, missed a 20-foot birdie putt on the 15th hole.

"If I had holed that one, I would only be one behind with three to go and then you never know," Hansen said. "But I missed it so the chance was gone."

Play was suspended for 5 1/2 hours Sunday, forcing the Monday finish. The opening round Thursday had a four-hour weather suspension.

U.S. Masters champion Phil Mickelson had a final-round 70 to finish on 3-under. His final-round score included a two-stroke penalty invoked by the European Tour for showing up late at the course from his hotel for the resumption of play Sunday afternoon.

Defending champion Ian Poulter and South Korea's Kang Kyung-nam trailed Scott by a stroke after three rounds, but both fell off the pace in the final round. Kang finished fifth after a 72 and Poulter had a 73 to finish tied for sixth with James Donaldson of Wales (70). □

Feds propose shifting airwaves to broadband

By JOELLE TESSLER,

AP Technology Writer

WASHINGTON — Federal officials looking for more airwaves to deliver wireless broadband services are recommending that the government reallocate a sizeable chunk of radio spectrum currently used for weather satellites and naval radar systems.

The proposal is intended to keep up with ballooning demand for iPhones, laptops and other mobile devices that connect to the Internet. The recommendation is outlined in a report released Monday by the Commerce Department's National Telecommunications and Information Administration.

In June, Obama administration committed

the federal government to making available an additional 500 megahertz of airwaves for wireless broadband over the next 10 years.

The new proposal would free up 115 megahertz of spectrum over the next five years. Lawrence Strickling, head of the NTIA, calls it a "significant down payment towards realizing that goal." □

E-mail secondary as Facebook revamps messaging

By BARBARA ORTUTAY

MICHAEL LIEDTKE,

AP Technology Writers

SAN FRANCISCO —

Facebook unveiled a new messaging platform Monday that takes aim at one of the Internet's first applications, e-mail.

Although blogs had been speculating that Facebook would announce an e-mail service to rival Google Inc.'s Gmail and others, Facebook said e-mail was just one component of its plans.

Declaring e-mail past its prime in the age of texts and instant messages, CEO Mark Zuckerberg said the company doesn't believe e-mail is going to be a modern messaging system. The first Internet e-mail system arrived in the early 1970s.

"If we do a good job, some people will say this is the way that the future will work," Zuckerberg said.

Zuckerberg dismissed notions that "Project Titan," as its service is called, is the "Gmail killer" it's been dubbed as in the press. But he also said that just as high school students are forgoing e-mail in favor of shorter, more immediate

chats, more people down the line will send IMs and chats because it's simpler, "more fun" and more valuable to use. Though e-mail is still a primary form of communication for older adults, recent studies suggest this is not the case for young people. Text messaging has surpassed face-to-face contact, e-mail, phone calls and instant messaging as the primary form of communication for U.S. teens, according to a 2009 survey from the Pew Internet and American Life Project.

E-mail use was the lowest — only 11 percent of teens said they use it every day to interact with friends, compared with 54 percent who said they text daily and 30 percent who said they use landline phones.

The popular social network unveiled its plans in San Francisco on Monday, a day before Zuckerberg speaks at the Web 2.0 Summit in San Francisco.

Underscoring the enormity of the project, Facebook's director of engineering, Andrew "Boz" Bosworth, said 15 Facebook engineers worked on the project for 15 months. □



Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg talks about the new email service at an announcement in San Francisco, Monday, Nov. 15, 2010.

AP Photo/Paul Sakuma)

From ex-Facebooker, a new 'Path' to sharing

By BARBARA ORTUTAY,

AP Technology Writer

NEW YORK — A new service aims to help you share the hundreds of photos you take with your camera phone with the people you trust the most — be it of moments as forgettable as a late-night McRib sandwich or as memorable as a new engagement ring.

Path, as it's called, comes from Dave Morin, who played a crucial role in developing Facebook before he left the company in January. Unlike Facebook, which encourages people to expand their circles of contacts, Path is focused on sharing with just your closest friends — and, for now, just photos.

Launched Monday, Path is a free iPhone app that lets you share photos taken with the phone with up to 50 people.

Versions for other phones are coming.

Though there are other sites that let you share photos, Path sets itself apart by keeping things simple and only between friends. To start, Path will ask you to set up an account using your e-mail address and phone number, the latter so that people who have it can find you on the service. Once you're set, tapping a green camera icon on the bottom of your iPhone screen will bring up the gadget's camera function, so you can snap your picture. Rather than adding a caption, you can add three types of tags — people, places or things. If you tag a person, Path will give you the option of sharing the photo with just that person. Otherwise, you're sharing it with all the people you've preselected. Sharing on Path is asymmetrical, so

in that sense it's more like Twitter than Facebook. Just because you're sharing with someone it doesn't mean that person has to share with you. Tagging things can be as whimsical or as boring as you want it to be. Tag your socks, your morning cup of coffee, your pet hamster. And you can tag places, such as the restaurant you're sitting in or the office building you're about to enter.

Why would anyone want to do such a thing?

Morin, 30, who says he's a big believer in the mobile market, noticed that people have a lot of photos on their phones that they don't do anything with. Have a phone long enough, and it's a unique insight into your life. Not a lot of people do anything with these photos, he says, so creating a platform to share them made sense. □

Apple promises 'exciting' iTunes update Tuesday

CUPERTINO, Calif. — Apple is promising an "exciting" iTunes announcement.

The iPhone maker has replaced its home page with a note that says, "Tomorrow is just another day. That you'll never forget." The page instructs people to check back at 7 a.m. Pacific Tuesday (10 a.m. EST) to learn more.

Apple Inc. is giving no specific details about the announcement. The company bought startup Lala.com last year. Lala lets people pay a small fee to stream music over the Internet instead of buying tracks for download. Some analysts believe Apple will eventually offer iPhone and other gadget users Web access to their iTunes libraries.

So far, Apple hasn't made any similar features available for iTunes users. The company would need to have new deals in place with music labels first. □

Radcliffe, Watson share torrid 'Harry Potter' kiss

By DAVID GERMAIN,
AP Movie Writer

LONDON — Daniel Radcliffe was expecting a tender embrace when it came time to kiss co-star Emma Watson in the new "Harry Potter" film. What he got was torrid necking, Watson working magic with her lips "like an animal," he said. "I thought it was going to be like a soft, sensual sort of moment, and it was this very vigorous kissing scene," said



FILE - In this March 2, 2010 file photo, Wesley Snipes attends the premiere of 'Brooklyn's Finest' in New York.

(AP Photo/Peter Kramer, file)

Wesley Snipes argues for new trial in Florida

OCALA, Fla. — Federal attorneys have asked a central Florida judge to revoke Wesley Snipes' bond if the actor is granted a new trial for tax evasion.

Snipes did not attend the hearing Monday in a federal court in Ocala. His attorneys say he deserves a new trial because of jury bias in his 2008 conviction. They say two jurors are now accusing other jurors of deciding the case without hearing evidence. They also say prosecutors hid damaging information about a key witness.

Federal prosecutors on Monday said questioning those jurors about their deliberations would violate juror rules and intimidate future juries.

The star of the "Blade" trilogy faces a three-year prison sentence. Snipes has been free on bond while appealing. □

Radcliffe, reprising the title role in "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 1," the second-to-last of the big-screen adventures about the teen wizard, which opens Friday.

"She really went for it, I have to say. It caught me slightly off guard, but yeah, I'm not complaining. Many men would lose a limb to be in that position, so I was absolutely fine with it," Radcliffe said in an interview.

Opening worldwide this week, the film casts Harry and best pals Hermione Granger (Watson) and Ron Weasley (Rupert Grint) out into the world to fend for themselves, and the journey puts severe strain on their friendship.

Under the spell of an artifact containing part of evil nemesis Voldemort's soul, Ron is sent into a jealous rage by a vision of Hermione, the girl he loves, and Harry taunting him as a third wheel in their relationship. Hermione and Harry then turn to each other and do some kissing that looks positively bestial.

"That was mainly Emma, I have to say," said director

David Yates.

The first take was too tame, and Yates said he told the actors it needed to be more "pagan and mad." That's when Watson really delivered. "I guess I just realized that I would have fewer takes to do if I just got on with it and just gave David what he wanted, which was a passionate kiss. Which was something that would really rock Ron's boat and really be quite painful and nasty for him to watch," Watson said.

Grint shot Ron's raging reactions alone, without Watson and Radcliffe on set. But he was on hand for Watson and Radcliffe's portions, though he was struck by a case of the giggles watching the colleagues he grew up with in the "Harry Potter" franchise getting down and dirty.

"When they were there actually filming that kiss, they did actually want me there to kind of play off something, but I just found that too funny," Grint said. "Emma sent me out because I kept laughing. It just looked really strange."

Though they were partly clothed, the scene leaves the



British actress Emma Watson poses for photographs, Friday, Nov. 12, 2010, following an interview with the Associated Press to discuss her role in Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows Part 1.

(AP Photo/Joel Ryan)

impression that Radcliffe and Watson are stripped naked. Both wore jeans, while Radcliffe went shirtless and Watson had the front of her torso covered, leaving her back and shoulders bare.

"I didn't want to put them through complete nudity," said director David Yates.

"I didn't think it was necessary, because we were going to put some smoke around them" for the scene, which Ron witnesses through

a hallucinatory fog.

Watson was thrilled that the scene delivered the sort of amorousness the filmmakers wanted.

"I'm proud of it, and considering how bloody awkward it was, I'm really impressed that we managed to make it look anything other than awkward," Watson said. "Because Dan and I are like brother and sister, so it was tough making it look passionate, believe me." □

Music impersonations key to Fallon's comedy

By DAVID BAUDER,
AP Television Writer

NEW YORK — Jimmy Fallon's love of making music a part of his act is setting him apart in the crowded world of late-night comedy.

It's paying off handsomely this week. To promote his new box set, Bruce Springsteen chose Fallon's "Late Night" on NBC — not Leno, Letterman or O'Brien. Tuesday's entire show is devoted to the Boss, his appearance a way of saying "thank you" for Fallon's well-received Emmy Awards opening, singing, "Born to Run" with the cast of "Glee." The comic's musical chops are often on display, as when he impersonated Neil Young singing "Pants on the Ground" and his "history of rap" with Justin Timberlake, which quickly went viral.

The rap history was born backstage at "Saturday Night Live," where Fallon and Timberlake were hanging out

before the season opener this fall. Timberlake was to be on Fallon's show the next week, and they talked about singing some of their favorite hip-hop songs. After calling the "Late Night" writers, the idea turned into a musical trip through time from the Sugarhill Gang to Jay-Z.

Two rehearsals in a dressing room, two onstage and it was showtime. It was Timberlake's idea to end the medley by walking into the audience for "Empire State of Mind," where people sang and swayed along. Fallon has been playing guitar since age 15 and has a genuine talent, plus a lack of self-consciousness that enables him to go toe-to-toe with a professional musician and sell it — complete with dancing and familiar moves.

"You can't think about it," Fallon said. "The adrenaline takes over. I'm a big fan of reality shows and I know you've got to complete the

mission."

The Young skit was his personal favorite. Fallon came out in a wig and wide hat that shadowed his eyes so you couldn't quite tell whether it was the real Neil Young or not. He strummed an acoustic guitar and sang, in Young's high whine, the novelty song that had become a sensation on "American Idol" the night before. Giggles bubbling up in the audience told him people were slowly catching on. "It was awesome," he said, and became even more so when he heard that that a day later Young himself, during a sound check, approached a microphone with his guitar and sang, "Pants on the Ground."

Fallon's love for music — along with the presence of the Roots, the versatile hip-hop band and instantly the hippest house band in late-night history — helps draw musicians to the show, said Jonathan Cohen, musical booker for "Late

Night." Some choose to leave their own bands at home. Last Thursday, the Roots were the glue for the odd duet of a piano-playing Jeff Goldblum and rapper Biz Markie on Markie's "Just Friends."

Musical impersonations have always been a big part of Fallon's comedy, and helped him get his break on "Saturday Night Live." He grew up in a musical family in New York's Hudson Valley. There's footage somewhere he hopes no one ever sees of Fallon and his sister in their mother's dresses lip-syncing "King Tut."

"I came from an Irish family that would have lots of parties," he said. "Everyone would get up and sing. Grandpa would come up and sing and everybody would cry. That's how Irish parties end."

His own musical tastes are typical of the iPod generation, a personal playlist that runs from classical to the Beatles to Jay-Z. □



Strong retail sales, Caterpillar deal drive stocks

By DAVID K. RANDALL,
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK — Stocks rose Monday following a spike in corporate dealmaking and news that retail sales jumped to the highest level in seven months in October.

Consumer spending rose 1.2 percent last month thanks to higher demand for automobiles, the Commerce Department reported. The gain was nearly double what analysts were expecting. Shares of Ford Motor Co.

rose 5.5 percent following the announcement.

Caterpillar, the world's largest construction machinery maker, said it would buy mining equipment maker Bucyrus International Inc. for \$7.6 billion in cash, a 32 percent premium over the company's closing price on Friday. Shares of Caterpillar rose 2.7 percent.

Data storage company EMC Corp. also announced that it had reached a deal to buy competitor Isilon Systems Inc.

for \$2.2 billion in cash. It is offering \$33.85 per share, a 29 percent premium over its closing price on Friday.

The push for mergers and acquisitions is a good sign for investors, said Uri Landesman, the president of Platinum Partners, a hedge fund in New York City. "It's a statement that companies are moving out from under the bombshells of 2008 and 2009 and that they don't think there will be another disaster," he said.



FILE - In this Nov. 11, 2010 file photo, traders work on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew, file)



Two Qantas A380 superjumbo jets are shown grounded on the tarmac at Los Angeles International Airport Friday, Nov. 12, 2010, before being inspected. An Airbus executive said Friday that Rolls-Royce has identified a faulty bearing box as the cause of the oil leak problem implicated in the midair disintegration of an engine.

(AP Photo/Nick Ut)

By MICHAEL WEISSENSTEIN
JANE WARDELL,
Associated Press

LONDON — Rolls-Royce will temporarily replace entire engines that have oil leaks on the world's largest jetliner after one motor suffered a frightening midair disintegration, an aviation regulator told The Associated Press on Monday.

The official said the British engine-maker would take off faulty engines and replace them with new ones. It will then fix the leaking part and swap the engine back again.

The official, who has been briefed by Rolls-Royce and some of the affected airlines, spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the matter. Rolls-Royce declined to comment.

Rolls-Royce stock, trading at 596.5 pence (\$9.60) at Monday's close on the London Stock Exchange, has now lost 9 percent, or around \$1.4 billion, since the Qantas midair incident on Nov. 4. Leaking oil caught fire Nov. 4 in one of the Qantas A380's four massive Trent 900 engines, heating metal parts and causing the motor's disintegration over Indonesia before the jetliner returned safely to Singapore. Experts say chunks of flying metal damaged vital systems in the wing of the Sydney-bound plane,

Official to AP: Rolls-Royce replacing A380 engines

causing the pilots to lose control of the second engine and half of the brake flaps on the damaged wing in a situation far more serious than originally portrayed by the airline.

Qantas grounded its six A380s within hours and said four days later that checks had revealed suspicious oil leaks in three engines on three different grounded A380s.

Singapore Airlines and Lufthansa, which both use A380s with Trent 900 engines, have conducted checks on their superjumbos and all but one have returned to service, the airlines say.

Qantas' six superjumbos — the backbone of its longest and most lucrative international routes between Australia and Los Angeles, Singapore and London — remain grounded despite what experts say is financial pressure to fly them again. The removal of engines can be expected to cause longer delays and potential revenue losses.

"We are taking our normal and extremely conservative approach to safety and will not operate our A380 fleet until we are completely confident that it is safe to do so," Qantas spokesman Simon Rushton said.

Airbus said last week that the Trent 900 problems could be expected to delay deliveries of new A380s.

"The issue is whether they have got significant numbers of engines to replace the number that are required," said Howard Wheeldon, a senior strategist at BGC Partners in London. "These things are not kept on the shelf."

Airlines traditionally do have some spares but Rolls-Royce hasn't provided detailed information on just how many engines need to be replaced.

"I think this is a slightly worrying move in that quite clearly the amount of time required to undertake such an exercise increases," Wheeldon said. "We could be talking many months rather than many weeks or many days."

That could lead to extended delays in getting the existing A380 fleet back in the air and potentially greater compensation claims from the affected airlines.

A longer replacement timetable — and using up spare engines — would also hit the delivery of all-new A380s due to Qantas, Lufthansa and China Southern Airlines in coming months. □

Corporations are holding records amount of cash on their balance sheets. Using that cash to buy rivals or to expand into new areas could be a sign that companies are less concerned about the possibility that that economy will slide into another recession soon.

The Dow Jones industrial average rose 66.07, or 0.6 percent, to 11,258.65 in afternoon trading.

The broader Standard & Poor's 500 index gained 5.64, or 0.5 percent, to 1,204.85, while the technology-focused Nasdaq composite index rose 7.88, or 0.3 percent, to 2,526.09.

Every industry group within the S&P 500 rose. Financial companies gained 1.2 percent to lead the index. Shares of Morgan Stanley gained 2.8 percent, while shares of JP Morgan Chase and Wells Fargo both rose 2 percent.

The shares of homebuilders tumbled. Pultegroup Inc. fell 4.4 percent, Toll Brothers fell 3.3 percent, and KB Home fell 2.4 percent.

All but six of the 30 companies in the Dow Jones industrial average rose. Caterpillar's gains made it the top performing stock in the index, while Walt Disney Co.'s 1.0 percent drop made it the laggard. □



Study: Fish oil doesn't help heart rhythm problem

By MARILYNN MARCHIONE,
AP Medical Writer

CHICAGO – Eating fish is good for the heart, but taking omega-3 fish oil supplements did not prevent flare-ups of a common heart rhythm problem as doctors hoped it would, researchers reported Monday.

It was the first large, well-done study to test omega-3 capsules for atrial fibrillation, when the heart quivers instead of beating normally. More than 2 million Americans have the problem, which is more than an unsettling flutter — it raises the risk of blood clots that can cause a stroke.

Small studies have gone back and forth on whether fish oil helps this condition. Researchers tested this by giving 663 people with atrial fibrillation either dummy pills or a high-dose prescription version of omega-3 fatty acids — the good fat in oily fish like salmon, tuna and sardines.

After six months, there was no difference in heart flutter episodes. Doctors say ordinary fish oil supplements that people buy at the store are even less likely to help this condition.

“This is data that we’ve needed sorely,” because so many people are taking supplements, said Dr. Christine Albert of Brigham and Women’s Hospital in Boston. “They showed no evidence of any benefit.”

The study’s leader, Dr. Peter Kowey, cardiology chief at Main Line Health Hospital System near Philadelphia, said many people take supplements and vitamins that have not been well tested.

“People are spending an enormous amount of money on stuff that doesn’t work,” he said.

Results were reported Monday at an American Heart Association conference in Chicago and published online by the Journal of the American Medical Association.

The capsules used in the study are sold as Lovaza in the United States and as Zodin in Europe by GlaxoSmithKline PLC, which paid for the research. A lot of research suggests that eating fish helps protect against heart disease, and the Heart Association recommends adults eat fish at least twice a week. People with heart disease — clogged arteries — who cannot get enough omega-3 from dietary sources should talk with their doctors about supplements, the association says.

No one should consume more than 3 grams of omega-3 without direction from their doctor, the association says. Fish oil capsules are not for children or women who are pregnant or nursing, because they can cause bleeding problems.

Earlier this month, a big study found that omega-3 pills didn’t slow the mental or physical decline of Alzheimer’s disease patients. The pills in that study had omega-3 derived from algae. □

Study: New blood thinner works as well as Coumadin

By MARILYNN MARCHIONE,
AP Medical Writer

CHICAGO – A study finds that a new and easier-to-use blood thinner prevents strokes in people with a common heart rhythm problem as well as Coumadin does, and without an increase in bleeding or side effects.

The drug is called rivaroxaban (riv-ah-ROCKS-ah-ban). It was tested against warfarin, the generic version of Coumadin, in more than 14,000 people with atrial fibrillation. That’s the most common heart rhythm problem in America. It occurs when the upper parts of the heart quiver instead of beating normally. This raises the risk of clots that can cause a stroke.

Johnson & Johnson and Bayer Healthcare plan to seek federal approval to sell the drug later this year. Doctors gave results of the study Monday at a heart conference in Chicago. □

Bonding Over Problems Can Make Women Anxious

Stephanie Pappas

It’s always nice to have a friend’s shoulder to lean on when life gets tough. But a study has found that too much commiserating can be stressful. Female friends who dwell on each other’s problems show a spike in the stress hormone cortisol and an increase in activity of the sympathetic nervous system, the system responsible for the fight-or-flight response, the study found.

Talking over problems without dwelling on them resulted in no such spike, suggesting that compassionate conversation is helpful - when done right.

“Too much of a good thing is a bad thing,” study researcher Jennifer Byrd-Craven, an Oklahoma State University psychologist, told LiveScience. “Really focusing on negative feelings is probably bad overall for your physical health as well as your psychological health.”

Studies on chronic stress have linked worry to high blood pressure, lowered immune response, and increased abdominal fat, which in turn is associated with heart disease and stroke.

Byrd-Craven reported the

results online Oct. 27 in the Journal of Social and Personal Relationships.

Stressful conversations Earlier studies had shown that excessively rehashing problems with friends - a phenomenon called “co-ruminating” - seemed to make people more anxious even as it brought the friends closer together. To investigate this paradox, Byrd-Craven recruited 44 pairs of college-age female friends. (Women, accordant with stereotype, are more likely to co-ruminate than men, Byrd-Craven said.) The women completed questionnaires designed to reveal their temperaments and problem-solving styles. Then the friend pairs were asked either to sit and discuss problems or to work together to plan a community recreation center. The center-planning task was a control so the researchers could compare problem-talking with a more neutral interaction.

Before and after the tasks, the women gave saliva samples to measure levels of cortisol and salivary alpha-amylase, a compound that signals the activation of the sympathetic nervous system.

The women who planned the community center showed no stress response, and neither did women whose natural problem-discussing style focused on solutions. But friend pairs who ruminated on their problems, discussing them without any resolution, showed an increase in both cortisol and salivary alpha-amylase.

Friends forever or toxic friendship?

The study looked only at the short term, so researchers don’t know how co-ruminating affects health over the long term. But preliminary evidence suggests the answer won’t be a positive one.

“Other studies have shown that dual stress system activity is related to the highest risk for internalizing symptoms,” Byrd-Craven said. “So, depression and anxiety.”

One odd upside to co-rumination is that women who do it report being closer to their friends, Byrd-Craven said. The next step is to look at how the women and their friendships fare in the long term, and to see whether people can learn to talk about problems in a more effective way, she said. □

HIV STIGMA

Because of the stigma associated with HIV, many people are reluctant to get tested and an infected person may unknowingly continue to have unprotected sexual relationships.

Persons already diagnosed know they have a responsibility to prevent further transmission. Fear of being stigmatized, however, may prevent some persons from disclosing their status.

Stigma drives the infection underground and makes it more difficult to contain the spread of HIV.

Before you stigmatize or discriminate against someone with HIV, STOP! THINK ABOUT IT.

Danish astronomer's remains exhumed in Prague

By KAREL JANICEK,
Associated Press

PRAGUE — Astronomer Tycho Brahe uncovered some of the mysteries of the universe in the 16th century — and now modern-day scientists are delving into the mystery of his sudden death.

On Monday, an international team of scientists opened his tomb in the Church of Our Lady Before Tyn near Prague's Old Town Square, where Brahe has been buried since 1601. After eight hours of work, they lifted from the tomb a tin box like a child's coffin in which Brahe's remains were placed after the only previous exhumation, in 1901.

Brahe's extraordinarily accurate stellar and planetary observations, which helped lay the foundations of early modern astronomy, are well documented but the circumstances surrounding his death at age 54 are murky.

It has been long thought that he died of a bladder infection: Legend said it was the result of his reluctance to breach court etiquette during a reception by leaving for a toilet. Kidney disease was another suspect. But tests conducted in 1996 in Sweden, and later in Denmark, on samples of his mustache and hair obtained in the 1901 exhumation, showed unusually high levels of mercury. That led to a theory of mercury poisoning — even, possibly, murder.

One theory had it that his assistant, famed German

astronomer Johannes Kepler, was among those to blame. Born in 1546 at his family's ancestral castle, Brahe, a Dane, was in Prague in 1601 at the invitation of the Holy Roman Emperor Rudolph II, having had a disagreement with the Danish king and leaving his scientific observatory on the island of Hven.

Brahe's tombstone was lifted from the church floor Monday morning by archeologists. Then a micro-camera was inserted into the tomb to check its condition.

His remains were in the one-meter- (one-yard-) long box about 1.6 meters (5 feet, 3 inches) below the church floor, as expected. The box will be taken to anthropological laboratories at the Czech National Museum late Monday. Scientists have until Friday to study the remains and take samples. The results of their analysis will be announced next year.

Unexpectedly, however, the remains of Brahe's wife, supposedly buried by his side three years later, were not found.

Archaeologist Petr Veleminsky said the bodies of two other people were discovered in the crypt — one of a woman no older than 20, the other of a child. But nothing that would belong to an older woman.

"We doubt whether his wife was really buried here," Veleminsky said.

Jens Velle, a professor of



Archeologists lift a tomb stone of a grave of famous Danish astronomer Tycho Brahe at the Church of Our Lady at the Old Town Square in Prague, Czech Republic, Monday, Nov. 15, 2010. An International team of scientists plan to exhume Brahe's remains in efforts to determine the cause of his death.

(AP Photo/Petr David Jasek)

medieval archaeology at Aarhus University, Denmark, who is leading an international team of scientists from Denmark, the Czech Republic and Sweden, said he decided nine years ago to seek permission from church and Prague authorities to reopen the tomb because there had been no proper archaeological report on the 1901 exhumation. Velle also hoped to gather better samples of mustache and hair — and, for the first time, samples of bone — so they could be analyzed using contemporary technology.

Velle said the tests will include a CT-scan, an X-ray technique known as PIXE analysis and a neutron activation analysis conducted at the Nuclear Research Institute AS in Rez, near Prague. He said he thought the tests would help establish that Brahe's intake of mercury in the last weeks of his life was deadly, and might have come from a painkiller containing the heavy metal.

"Perhaps we will be able to come close to an answer, but I don't think we will get a final answer," Velle said. He said scientists might have to exhume Brahe's remains again in 200 to 300 years to complete the research.

Scientists are interested in Brahe's skull, as well. The astronomer had part of his nose sliced off in a 1566 duel with a fellow nobleman as a student in the German city of Rostock, and the missing piece was replaced by a metal plate. The plate was not found in 1901, but the tests now should

be able to determine what it was made of — possibly a silver-copper alloy — Velle said. "It's been a fantastic day for us," he said. "We've been waiting so long. All of us are happy." □

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ALWAYS ... ON TOP OF THE NEWS!

Scientists propose one-way trips to Mars

By **NICHOLAS K. GERANIOS**, Associated Press
Nicholas K. Geranios, Associated Press — PULLMAN, Wash. — Invoking the spirit of “Star Trek” in a scholarly article entitled “To Boldly Go,” two scientists contend human travel to Mars could happen much more

quickly and cheaply if the missions are made one-way. They argue that it would be little different from early settlers to North America, who left Europe with little expectation of return. “The main point is to get Mars exploration moving,” said Dirk Schulze-Makuch of

Washington State University, who wrote the article in the latest “Journal of Cosmology” with Paul Davies of Arizona State University. The colleagues state — in one of 55 articles in the issue devoted to exploring Mars — that humans must begin colonizing another

planet as a hedge against a catastrophe on Earth. Mars is a six-month flight away, possesses surface gravity, an atmosphere, abundant water, carbon dioxide and essential minerals. They propose the missions start by sending two two-person teams, in separate ships, to Mars. More colonists and regular supply ships would follow.

The technology already exists, or is within easy reach, they wrote.

An official for NASA said the space agency envisions manned missions to Mars in the next few decades, but that the planning decidedly involves round trips.

President Obama informed NASA last April that he “believed by the mid-2030s that we could send humans to orbit Mars and safely return them to Earth. And that a landing would soon follow,” said agency spokesman Michael Braukus.

No where did Obama suggest the astronauts be left behind. “We want our people back,” Braukus said.

Retired Apollo 14 astronaut Ed Mitchell, who walked on the Moon, was also critical of the one-way idea.

“This is premature,” Mitchell wrote in an e-mail. “We aren’t ready for this yet.”

Davies and Schulze-Makuch say it’s important to realize they’re not proposing a “suicide mission.”

“The astronauts would go to Mars with the intention



In this photo taken Oct. 28, 2010, Dr. Paul Davies, of Arizona State University, holds a book on Mars as he stands in the atrium of the Biodesign Institute building on the ASU campus in Tempe, Ariz. Davies is one of two scientists that are proposing we send volunteers to Mars and leave them there. Dr. Davies says the mission would mark the beginning of long-term human colonization of Mars, with numerous follow-up trips. The colleagues contend one-way missions could happen a lot quicker and cheaper, and it is essential to begin colonizing another planet as a hedge against a catastrophe that makes Earth uninhabitable.

(AP Photo/Ross D. Franklin)

of staying for the rest of their lives, as trailblazers of a permanent human Mars colony,” they wrote, while acknowledging the proposal is a tough sell for NASA, with its intense focus on safety.

They think the private sector might be a better place to try their plan.

“What we would need is an eccentric billionaire,” Schulze-Makuch said. “There are people who have the money to put this into reality.” Indeed, British tycoon Richard Branson, PayPal founder Elon Musk and Amazon.com Inc. CEO Jeff Bezos are among the rich who are involved in private space ventures.

Isolated humans in space have long been a staple of science fiction movies, from “Robinson Crusoe on Mars” to “2001: A Space Odyssey” to a flurry of recent movies such as “Solaris” and “Moon.” In many of the plots, the lonely astronauts fall victim to computers, madness or aliens. □



In this picture made available by NASA, a technician examines the area of the space shuttle Discovery’s external tank where foam was removed to study the source a cracks on the tank in Cape Canaveral, Fla. on Wednesday, Nov. 10, 2010.

(AP Photo/NASA, Troy Cryder)

NASA finds 4th crack on space shuttle fuel tank

By **MARCIA DUNN**, AP Aerospace Writer
CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — NASA has found a fourth crack in the fuel tank for space shuttle Discovery.

Discovery’s final mission remains on hold as engineers and technicians work to fix all the cracks as well as a hydrogen gas leak.

NASA spokesman Allard Beutel said Monday the repairs need to be made before a new launch date is picked. The launch window opens Nov. 30 and closes Dec. 6.

NASA first discovered a long crack in the insulating foam of the fuel tank, after the countdown was halted Nov. 5 by the gas leak. Last week, two cracks were found on the exterior of the tank. Then another crack popped up, then another.

The cracks are in the tank’s central, ribbed section, which holds instruments, not fuel. □

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Cuba recibe primer buque de guerra británico en décadas

LA HABANA (Reuters) - El primer buque de guerra británico que visita Cuba desde antes de la revolución de 1959 entró el lunes en la Bahía de La Habana, donde fue recibido por una banda de la Marina cubana que interpretó "God Save the Queen".

Con su bandera al viento y misiles Sea Dart color rojo brillante sobre la cubierta, el destructor HMS Manchester entró al puerto frente a La Habana Vieja, el centro histórico de la capital cubana, en el inicio de una visita de cinco días a la isla de Gobierno comunista.

Oficiales de la nave se reunirán durante la visita con sus contrapartes cubanas para discutir sobre cooperación en la lucha contra el tráfico de drogas y asistencia a desastres en el área del Caribe.

La última vez que un buque de guerra británico atracó en la isla fue en 1957, cuando la fragata HMS Bigbury Bay visitó La Habana.

En ese momento, un grupo rebelde liderado por Fidel Castro luchaba en la montañas del oriente de la isla. El 1 de enero de 1959 los insurgentes derrocaron al dictador Fulgencio Batista y tomaron el poder.

En el apogeo de la Guerra Fría,

Castro transformó la isla en un Estado comunista y se alió a la Unión Soviética, enfriando las relaciones con los países occidentales.

El lunes, la Marina de Guerra de Cuba saludó a la nave con una guardia de honor que llevaba las banderas cubanas y británicas, mientras una banda de música interpretó los himnos nacionales de ambos países.

La visita de Manchester puede ser una señal de que se acerca una mayor colaboración, dijo el comandante Rex Cox.

"La Marina Real no ha estado aquí durante 53 años, pero tenemos muchas esperanzas de que este sea el comienzo de muchas más visitas de buques de guerra", agregó a periodistas a bordo del buque color gris metálico de 462 pies de eslora. Cox destacó que el buque tiene una tripulación de 270 personas, incluyendo un destacamento de la Guardia Costera de Estados Unidos.

El buque ha estado en el Caribe desde junio como parte de la patrulla de la Marina Real y en operaciones de lucha contra el tráfico ilícito de drogas. Recientemente interceptó un envío ilegal de 240 kilos de cocaína.

Reunirse con oficiales de la Marina cubana y funcionarios del Gobierno le permitirá a

Dominicana prohíbe comercio de ropa usada con Haití

SANTO DOMINGO (AP) - República Dominicana prohibió el lunes el comercio de ropa usada en la frontera con Haití para evitar la propagación del cólera que ha causado cerca de 1.000 muertes en el país vecino. La ropa usada en pacas provenientes de Estados Unidos, así como los zapatos donados por Canadá y la Unión Europea representan los principales productos que venden los comerciantes haitianos en los mercados fronterizos que se realizan dos veces a la semana. Tras su ingreso a República Dominicana, la ropa usada es comercializada en mercados de pulgas así como en pequeñas tiendas en todo el país, especialmente en pueblos y zonas rurales. El Centro de Exportación e Inversión (CEI-RD) estima que asciende a más de tres millones de dólares al año. El mercado binacional de Dajabón, a unos 300 kilómetros al noroeste de Santo Domingo, abrió al mediodía del lunes mientras equipos de seguridad dominicana impedían a los haitianos dedicados a la venta de ropa usada y de zapatos instalar sus puestos ambulantes. El gobierno dominicano había intentado sin éxito desde 2002 prohibir la importación de ropa usada por la frontera, pero los importadores han presionado para mantener ese comercio. □



El destructor británico HMS Manchester a su llegada a la bahía de La Habana, nov 15 2010. El primer buque de guerra británico que visita Cuba desde antes de la revolución de 1959 entró el lunes en la Bahía de La Habana, donde fue recibido por una banda de la Marina cubana que interpretó 'God Save the Queen'. REUTERS/Desmond Boylan

la Marina Real "una mejor comprensión de cómo se realizan las operaciones contra el narcotráfico en el norte y oeste del Caribe", dijo Cox.

"Podemos empezar a hablar de cómo nosotros hacemos las cosas y aprender cómo ellos hacen las cosas", explicó el capitán.

Pero la visita no será sólo de trabajo. El equipo del Manchester se enfrentará a la Academia Naval cubana en un partido de fútbol. □

Ecuador:

Comienza reunión extraordinaria de Corte Interamericana

QUITO (AP) - La Corte Interamericana de los Derechos Humanos (CorteIDH), inició el lunes el 42do período de sesiones en esta capital, donde tiene previsto realizar audiencias públicas acerca de los casos que involucran a Uruguay, Perú y Argentina.

En la reunión de Quito, la CorteIDH, avanzará en el proceso de juzgamiento de la demanda que interpuso ante esta entidad el poeta argentino Juan Gelman en contra del Estado uruguayo, al que acusa del asesinato y desaparición hace 34 años de su nuera, María Claudia García. El escritor debe declarar ante la Corte junto a su nieta, Macarena Gelman. El vicescanciller ecuatoriano Kintto Lucas señaló que la CorteIDH "fue hasta hace poco algo alejado de la sociedad. Con este tipo de iniciativas, se relaciona más con la ciudadanía y se relaciona mucho con sus problemas".

La CorteIDH mantendrá también sendas audiencias públicas entre el lunes y miércoles

sobre el Caso Abril Alosilla-Perú, por una demanda por Protección Judicial, y el asunto penitenciarias de Mendoza, respecto de medidas provisionales. El presidente de la Corte, Diego García, dijo al canal estatal Gama Tv que "hay una positiva evolución democrática de nuestros países en medio de las enormes dificultades económicas que han enfrentado".

Expresó que "la mayor parte de sentencias son cumplidas por los estados, sea mediante reparaciones económicas, o a través de las medidas que la Corte dispone".

Destacó que "no ha habido en nuestro continente una tradición de sistemas judiciales independientes, a veces ha fallado el norte, la brújula, hacia dónde y con qué criterios se administra la justicia. Resolver un conflicto requiere un criterio democrático en el que hay que favorecer los derechos de la gente". □



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